

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL REPORT

Wednesday, 6th May, 2009

The House met at 2.30 p.m.

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

PRAYERS

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

LAUNCH OF MEDIA CENTRE AND PARLIAMENT MAGAZINE

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members, Parliament has been involved in various programmes and activities aimed at opening up new opportunities for increased participation in the affairs of the Legislature by parliamentarians and the general public. It is in this line that the Parliamentary Service Commission (PSC) has established a Media Centre that will be used by honourable Members in holding Press conferences and by journalists in filing stories from Parliament. The Media Centre is equipped with computers and internet facilities. It is located next to the library in what used to be the "Press Tent".

The official opening of the Media Centre will be held tomorrow, Thursday, 7th May, 2009, at 10.30 a.m. at the Parliament Gardens. The ceremony will also include the launch of the first edition of the Kenya Parliament Magazine. All hon. Members are invited to attend this important occasion.

Thank you.

Hon. Members, you will all bear witness that both those events, namely, the Media Centre and the Parliament Magazine are state of the art. You will be proud of them.

Hon. Members, the Communication with respect to dress code will be made tomorrow at 2.30 p.m.

QUESTION BY PRIVATE NOTICE

PLIGHT OF FARMERS RESIDING IN MAU FOREST COMPLEX

Mr. Kiuna: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to ask the Minister for Forestry and Wildlife the following Question by Private Notice.

(a) What steps is the Minister taking to address the plight of farmers whose lives hang in the balance as they await action on the Report of the Task Force on Conservation of the Mau Forest Complex on demarcation of the forest boundaries?

(b) Could he assure the House that destruction of the forest is being checked in the wake of drying rivers and erratic rainfall patterns?

(c) When will the Government table the report on the findings of the Task Force?

The Assistant Minister for Forestry and Wildlife (Mr. Nanok): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I plead to be given more time so that I can bring a substantive answer to this House. So far, I do not have an answer yet.

Mr. Speaker: How much time do you require, Mr. Assistant Minister?

The Assistant Minister for Forestry and Wildlife (Mr. Nanok): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will be ready with the answer by Tuesday next week.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Kiuna?

Mr. Kiuna: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the House is aware that this Question is very sensitive and the whole nation is waiting for the outcome of the Task Force on the Mau Complex. We are eagerly waiting for the answer, so that the people of Molo and the surrounding areas can know the outcome.

Mr. Speaker: Order, Mr. Kiuna! Are you agreeable to Tuesday next week?

Mr. Kiuna: Yes, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Very well. It is so ordered! Tuesday, next week!

(Question deferred)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Question No.009

MEASURES TO ENSURE EMUHAYA DISTRICT BENEFITS FROM LVEMP

Dr. Otichilo asked the Minister for Regional Development Authorities:-

(a) what measures he is taking to ensure that Emuhaya District benefits from the second phase of the Lake Victoria Environmental Management Programme, which was approved by the World Bank; and,

(b) what plans the Ministry has to promote fish farming and horticultural programmes in the district.

The Assistant Minister for Regional Development Authorities (Mr. ole Metito): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg the indulgence of the Chair. We just received this Question last evening. I have consulted the Questioner and we have agreed that Tuesday will be an ideal day to answer it. That is because we want to give a comprehensive answer.

Mr. Speaker: Member for Emuhaya? Is that so?

Dr. Otichilo: Yes, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Very well! It is so ordered! It will be answered on Tuesday next week.

(Question deferred)

Question No.006

RETIREMENT BENEFITS FOR
MR. LEKULA LESUDO

Mr. Lekuton asked the Minister of State for Provincial Administration and Internal Security:-

(a) why Mr. Lekula Lesudo (P/No.180239), who retired on 19th February, 1980, has not received his retirement benefits; and,

(b) when the payment will be made.

The Assistant Minister, Ministry of State for Provincial Administration and Internal Security (Mr. Lesrima): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) I am not in a position to establish why Mr. Lekula Lesudo has not been paid his retirement benefits since he retired on 19th February, 1980.

(b) Personal files for officers who have retired or left the service are by law destroyed after 15 years and it is possible that records of that officer have suffered that fate since he left the service 29 years ago. Therefore, I am not able to determine whether he got the pension or not.

Mr. Lekuton: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have records here of Mr. Lesudo when he retired in 1980. He has been communicating to every single office in Embu and in Marsabit about his retirement benefits. I wonder how I have records and the Government does not.

I would like the Assistant Minister to look into this issue. That man retired 29 years ago and he did not get a single penny from the Government that he served loyally for many years. If he does not have the records, I will give them to him right now.

Mr. Lesrima: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to thank the hon. Member because he is the only one who, at the moment, has the records. He has actually availed to me the records. The last correspondence on this matter was in 1980. There have been recent attempts to make inquiries. Since I only received these records this morning, I am constituting a team to work backwards and confirm whether the retired officer received his pension in the 29 years. The documents that I have are not adequate to establish whether the officer collected the pension or not. We will work on other documents through the National Archives---

Mr. Speaker: Order, Mr. Assistant Minister! So, in a nutshell, what are you saying? Are you ready to answer the Question or you are not ready to answer the Question?

Mr. Lesrima: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am saying that the documents that I have are useful to some extent, but I require more time to go and check with the Government records, which may exist. For example, some of the requirements before---

Mr. Speaker: Order, Mr. Assistant Minister! You will do one of two things. Either, you are ready to answer this Question and we allow you time to do so, or you indicate that you are not ready to do so. We are not going to have half-baked answers!

Mr. Lesrima: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not have all the information to answer the Question. I did, indeed, request him to give me more time, but he said---

Mr. Speaker: Yes. You are pleading with the House to give you more time!

Mr. Lesrima: Yes, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Lekuton!

Mr. Lekuton: Mr. Speaker, Sir, since that man is very desperate, I am willing to let the Assistant Minister pursue the issue even further. However, he has said that the records are destroyed after some time. I can definitely allow him to bring the answer to the House, an answer that will include interest on the pension for the 29 years.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Lesrima, you have until Wednesday next week. Is that fine with you?

Mr. Lesrima: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I require up to Thursday next week.

Mr. Speaker: It is so ordered! Thursday next week at 2.30 p.m.

(Question deferred)

That brings us to the end of the Questions on the Order Paper. I now want to proceed and take a Ministerial Statement from the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance. I received an indication that the Minister is ready.

Minister for Finance!

The Assistant Minister, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and Ministry of Finance (Dr. Oburu): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Statement is not ready because the Minister is not here. He was working on it.

Mr. Speaker: Order! That is a bit surprising! Very surprising, indeed, Dr. Oburu! Yesterday, the Chair ordered and directed the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance to deliver his Statement tomorrow. But the Minister got in touch with the Clerk of the Kenya National Assembly and indicated that he was ready to deliver that Statement this afternoon, because he considered the matter urgent. So, that is surprising. What is your reaction to that?

The Assistant Minister, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and Ministry of Finance (Dr. Oburu): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Statement was almost ready. I am asking for your indulgence, if you could give us time in the course of today's Sitting, to deliver it.

Mr. K. Kilonzo: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Order, Mr. K. Kilonzo! Let me deal with the Assistant Minister for the moment. Mr. Assistant Minister, since the new Standing Orders took effect, as from 3.00 p.m., it will be the Prime Minister's Time. So, we will not be able to give you another slot if the Minister does not show up in the next five minutes.

(Mr. Kenyatta was applauded as he entered the Chamber)

Order, hon. Members! Let us give the Minister a little time just to settle down. Mr. Minister, you were on the verge of running out of order. You are going to have to live with some consequences that follow.

(Mr. K. Kilonzo stood up in his place)

No, Mr. K. Kilonzo! We will take a request for a Ministerial Statement before we come back to the Minister's Ministerial Statement.

POINTS OF ORDER

GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION TO MITIGATE HIGH PRICES OF MAIZE/MAIZE FLOUR

Mr. Wamalwa: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise on a point of order to request a Ministerial Statement from the Minister for Agriculture in respect of supply of maize to this country. I would like the Minister in his Statement to indicate why, in spite of the Government allowing millers to import maize and other cereals duty free and the Government spending billions of shillings to import maize, the prices of maize and maize flour continue to skyrocket beyond the means of ordinary Kenyans.

I would also like the Minister to indicate what interventions the Government intends to make to mitigate the situation. Lastly, I would like the Minister to also indicate in his Statement what happened to the previous initiative of subsidized *unga* initiative for the ordinary *mwananchi*.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Minister, when will you bring the Statement?

The Assistant Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Ndambuki): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will do it on Thursday next week.

Mr. Speaker: It is so ordered!

GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE ON RE-DRAWING OF MIGINGO ISLAND BOUNDARIES

Mr. Outa: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise on a point of order to seek a Ministerial Statement from the Minister for Foreign Affairs. I want the Minister to clarify to this House why Kshs140 million is proposed to be used to re-draw the Migingo boundaries while the Government is looking for more money to settle Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).

Secondly, who are the professionals who are engaged to undertake this exercise?

The Minister for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Wetangula): Mr. Speaker, Sir, will you allow me to do so now?

Mr. Speaker: No, we do not have time for it. We have time for the Statement from the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance. As you will note from the Order Paper, we are supposed to move to the Prime Minister's Time not later than 3.00 p.m. so, we are out of time. Will you do it on Wednesday next week?

The Minister for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Wetangula): No, Mr. Speaker, Sir, maybe on Thursday.

Mr. Speaker: Very well! It is ordered that this Statement will come on Thursday next week.

TERMINATION OF CONTRACT OF CLERK
OF PAN AFRICAN PARLIAMENT

Mr. Imanyara: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as the Minister does that next Thursday, I want to remind him that last Session, he undertook to provide a Statement with regard to Mr. Murumba Werunga who was sacked as the Clerk of the PanAfrican Parliament (PAP) under very dubious circumstances. There was an undertaking that we will make a Statement. Could we get it on Thursday?

The Minister for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Wetangula): Yes, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Very well! It is so ordered, Thursday next week!

Yes, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance!

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

IRREGULARITIES IN SUPPLEMENTARY
ESTIMATES

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance (Mr. Kenyatta): Mr. Speaker, Sir, once again, I beg the indulgence of the House for coming in a few minutes late but I expected that we would start at 3.00 p.m. That is what I had been informed.

I beg to make the following Ministerial Statement on the Supplementary Budget for the year 2008/2009.

On 5th May, 2009, Mr. Imanyara sought a Ministerial Statement from the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance regarding “what appears to be a monstrous fraud committed, not only to this House but also to the country”. Mr. Imanyara has claimed that the Supplementary Estimates for the Financial Year 2008/2009 contained “discrepancies that reveal fraud.” He alleges that the Estimates have been falsified to the extent that the Supplementary Estimates approved by Parliament have in excess “of Kshs9.2 billion having being either stolen or unaccounted for.”

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to take this early opportunity to put the record straight on the issue raised by Mr. Imanyara and to array the fears of hon. Members, the Kenyan public and the international community. The Kenyan public more so, in particular, because they have religiously been paying taxes to support public development Programmes in this country. It is important for hon. Members to appreciate the purpose of a Supplementary Budget. I say this because reflecting on the allegations made in this House, there is no doubt in my mind that the need for a Supplementary Budget is not as obvious as many of us might wish to believe. A Supplementary Budget only becomes necessary when there are developments that may have taken place or are taking place in the country, that impacts in a significant way on the fundamental assumptions underlying the Budget that was presented to Parliament at the end of the previous financial year.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the new circumstances may evolve in requiring the Government to realign its original Budget in order to create fiscal space and, therefore, accommodate the need for interventions. Any realignment involving either cutting or increasing some expenditure items by the Executive arm of the Government requires, by law, approval of Parliament. Let me, at this juncture, emphasize that it is only the adjustments or proposed changes to the original Budget that the Executive arm of the Government would be

seeking approval from Parliament given the fact that the Budget itself is already approved. It is, therefore, unfortunate that this obvious point seems to have eluded some hon. Members including Mr. Imanyara.

When I stood before this House on 28th April 2009, to present the Supplementary Budget, I explained the challenges, which we, as the Government, are facing in implementing the original Budget; challenges that I would like to believe hon. Members are aware of. New demands for the Exchequer resources in the face of constrained revenue performance made it necessary for the Government to consider cutting back on non-priority recurrent expenditure while postponing development programmes that appeared unlikely to start in the remaining period to the end of the current financial year, as I explained when I was moving my Motion.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the decision by the Government to cut non-priority expenditure does not constitute fraud. Indeed, it is a sign of prudent financial management for which we should be proud of as a nation. It is also useful to note that the Supplementary Budget Estimates only focus on proposed expenditure changes as I earlier mentioned. There is a house allowance and Medical Allowance of Kshs393.8 million and Kshs16.6 million respectively. These are the only ones reflected in the Supplementary Budget.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, if you will allow me to explain further, in the detailed Budget, if you look at the original Printed Estimates, the sum approved for the Ministry of Education was Kshs29, 645,245,859. The sum that we sought on the new line after the reduction of two lines reduced to Kshs29,234,841,500. The figures that Mr. Imanyara received from his advisors indicate only two lines that were touched. There was House Allowance of a total of Kshs16.858 billion which was reduced by a figure of Kshs383 million and Medical Allowance at a figure of Kshs4, 531,000,000 which was reduced by a figure of Kshs16.57 billion. The total of those two lines that were adjusted make up the Kshs21.39 billion that Mr. Imanyara was referring to.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, none of the other lines in Personal Allowances were touched and hence there was no need to report them in the Supplementary Budget because they were to proceed along the lines that Parliament had already approved. So, the global figure on net reduction in the Ministry of Education is a figure of approximately Kshs393, 800,000 and Kshs16.6 million respectively.

As I had said, the other five sub-items under the Item of Personal Allowance, which amounts to Kshs8.2 billion, were not revised and were therefore, not included in the overall change of the principal Item. However, the Ministry's overall budget remains at Kshs29.2 billion and not the Kshs20.9 billion as alleged.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as hon. Members will recall, I did explain that the austerity measures I proposed were still not adequate to create enough fiscal space to cater fully for the necessary interventions. To ensure the economy and our infrastructure programme remain on course, I propose to borrow more from the domestic market. This is because we are mindful of the need to protect the livelihood of Kenyans.

I would, therefore, like to emphasize that Parliament is not being called upon to debate the Printed Estimates which are already approved but only the areas in which proposals are being made to add, reduce or re-allocate funds. It is also worth noting that the Supplementary Budget has time immemorial - Mr. Imanyara should know this as a senior Member of this House - been prepared indicating only those areas where changes have been proposed to the original Budget.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, equally important to emphasize is that the Appropriations Act governing the Printed Estimates does not lapse with the Supplementary Bill being passed. The Supplementary Estimates only amend the Appropriations Act to the extent of the changes made. The legal position, therefore, is that the 2008/2009 Appropriation Act is still in force until June 2009 when it will lapse.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Supplementary Estimates Motion for the Financial Year 2008/2009 - I want to repeat - sought for a sum not exceeding Kshs16, 355,411,140 to be granted from the Consolidated Fund in respect of the Recurrent Supplementary Estimates having regard for the proposed reduction of Kshs15, 633,315,630 and for a sum not exceeding Kshs9, 895,900,650 in respect of Development Supplementary Estimates having regard to the proposed reduction of Kshs11, 695,894,670 therein appearing. It is quite obvious to anybody who cares to note that, that sum does not constitute the Annual Budget for the year 2008/2009.

The net effect of this request was an increase of Kshs722, 095,510 for Recurrent Expenditure and a reduction of Kshs1, 799,994,020 for Development Expenditure. These changes are realised from the individual Vote level, which are shown as per the Supplementary Appropriations Bill which I intend to lay before this House.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is, however, important to emphasize that the supposed "discrepancy" is not real since the overall Budget is still unchanged. No loss of funds or fraud is intended as accounting units will still have access to the very same Budget approved by this House and the same will be availed for audit which, again, will be availed to this House.

I would like to conclude my Statement by encouraging our Members of Parliament to avoid using information derived from institutions of doubtful professional capability.

(Applause)

More often than not, we have seen such Non Governmental Organisations like MARS Group providing information on debt which cannot stand the test of time. I say this because I would like to table some document. They have consistently stated that our position on public debt is a hidden Treasury secret yet every year, there is a Report on the Appropriations Accounts and other accounts of funds of the Republic of Kenya presented by the Controller and Auditor-General. The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) also presents this Report before this House, for scrutiny. I am sure, Mr. Imanyara has served in this Committee during his life in this House. Attached to that, is a full record of the entire debt of the Republic of Kenya in detail, per line.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, for those who have not had the opportunity to look at the documents that are availed to this House, I would like to table this.

(Mr. Kenyatta laid the document on the Table)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, at this stage I would urge my colleagues in this House to focus on what would help build our nation. Allegations like those that have been made in this House, which have been broadcast all over the world, only go to undermine our nation

and ability to realise the development goals which we are all, individually and collectively, trying to achieve.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to assure hon. Members that we at the Treasury are open to closer dialogue that could help to avoid technical misunderstanding. We are more committed to protecting public resources, not only for the current generation but also for our prosperity.

Thank you.

Mr. Imanyara: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you would have noticed that the Minister has read a detailed statement which he has not availed to me. Given that we are already in the Prime Minister's time, may I ask that I make my clarifications tomorrow at 2.30 p.m. after seeing the document he has been reading which he has not had the courtesy of extending to me?

Mr. Speaker: That is only fair. It makes good sense.

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance (Mr. Kenyatta): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. This was not a Question, but a request for a Ministerial Statement, which I have made. I would like you to clarify whether statements are supposed to be availed to hon. Members because that is not the procedure that we have operated on before. So, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like you to clarify.

Mr. Speaker: Let me just countercheck.

(Mr. Speaker consulted the Clerk-at-the Table)

Order, hon. Members! Our conduct of business in this House would normally be recorded. The Clerks-at-the -Table who are this afternoon led by the Clerk to the National Assembly confirm that past practice indicate unequivocally that Ministerial Statements are not supplied to Members who seek them in advance. They would normally be delivered and Members are expected to react instantly from the presentation as made.

Mr. Imanyara: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if there was intention to make public information available to this House, there would be no need to hide a statement that has been read. Nevertheless, you will have noticed that the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance only answered specific item regarding the Ministry of Education. What I gave yesterday and pointed out were a random selection of 20 Ministries arising out of 200 line Items. It has nothing to do with Mr. Imanayara's advisors. It has everything to do with the way the Budget process is governed in this country. The Ministry of Finance has technocrats who prepare information, which in turn the Minister lays on the Table of the House. The documents laid on the Table of the House---

Mr. Speaker: Order! Mr. Imanyara, just a moment. So that we can move to conclude this matter quickly, how many areas do you find inconsistencies?

Mr. Imanyara: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are 200 inconsistencies amounting to Kshs9,677,189,511. I have been able to show that the Estimates that were laid on the Table of the House, the figure given is not the figure contained in the Estimates that were approved last week. That is a matter of concern, not only to this House, but to Kenyans that this Minister can come to this House and purport to seek extra funding on the basis of information that is not accurate, given the basis of the estimates that we approved last year---

Mr. Speaker: Order, Imanyara! I just want us to move to conclude this matter, so I am trying to give direction to it. You said there were 200 instances. I would like you to cite out of those 200, ten instances and let the House know where the differences are and what the differences are, so that the Minister has a sample. Then, I would want him to react to that and then we would decide how to go on.

Mr. Imanyara: Mr. Speaker, Sir, unlike him, I am missing a copy of the entire 200 items, so that he can see because there is nothing to hide.

Mr. Speaker: Deal with ten items, so that the Minister can react.

Mr. Imanyara: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will go with the first ten on my list of 200. Vote No. R01, Ministry of State for Provincial Administration and Internal Security, Sub-Vote 010, Head 001, Head title: Office of the President, code title: Hospitality supplies. This is found on page four of the Estimates that were approved last year. The Estimates in the list that was tabled in the House by the Minister last week, the approval was for Kshs4,900,000 even though it was Kshs5,600,000. This gives a difference of Kshs700,000. With the second Item, R01, Ministry of State for Provincial Administration and Internal Security, sub-Vote 012, Head 010, Administration Police, Personal Allowances, on page 8, there is a difference of Kshs49, 000. On the Third one, State House---

Mr. Speaker: Could you just state the Ministry and the figures?

Mr. Imanyara: State House, a difference of Kshs1 million, State House, Item four, a difference of Kshs91,000, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a difference of Kshs8,604,000, Office of the Vice-President and Ministry of Home Affairs, a difference of Kshs60 million. All these I am making available to him and they are extracted from documents that were laid on the Table of this House. They are not manufactured by hon. Imanyara or any Member of this House. They came from the Minister's office. We need a clarification on these issues. I still insist that the answer given in the Ministerial Statement does not clarify the issues that I sought. That is why I am asking that I be allowed to look at the HANSARD, notwithstanding what the institutional memory of the Clerks in front of you tell you. I can look at what he said tomorrow and respond. So, I can do so, tomorrow at 2.30 p.m. in order to be fair to the issues that have been raised. The business of the Clerk of the House is to facilitate and not to deny an opportunity of the Ministers being held accountable for their actions and to the people of Kenya.

Mr. Speaker: Minister, what is your response to this?

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance (Mr. Kenyatta): Mr. Speaker, I do not think personally there is need to waste any more time of this House from more important business and I shall state why. Of the total sum alleged by the hon. Imanyara, the only reason I specifically chose to target the Ministry of Education is that out of his allegation of Kshs9.2 billion, Kshs8.25 billion related to this Ministry. Any additional information that Mr. Imanyara may be requiring with regard to details of the remaining amounts is readily available from the Treasury. Mr. Imanyara is more than welcome at any point in time to come and peruse those documents. If, indeed, he has any question that is of substance, he is free to come and report it before this House.

(Mr. Imanyara stood up in his place)

Mr. Speaker: Order, Mr. Imanyara! Mr. Deputy Prime Minister, I just want to take one instance and I want you to indicate whether or not this is accurate. Let us take the Ministry of State for Provincial Administration and Internal Security, item on Personal Allowance. Could you kindly confirm if the figure of Kshs868,834,559 is accurately derived from your approved Estimates? Is that accurately derived from your approved Estimates?

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance (Mr. Kenyatta): Mr. Speaker, Sir, please, do not make me comment on information which I have no idea where he derived it from.

But what I can say is that, and let me give the examples that I used for the Ministry of Education---

Mr. Speaker: Why would you not want to use my example?

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance (Mr. Kenyatta): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is because I only came with the information for the Ministry of Education because that was the substantive amount, to illustrate the point. That is why I am saying on all the other Vote Heads, that information is readily available. I did indicate that out of the Kshs8 billion or so, Mr. Imanyara has stated is missing, if you look at the original vote, the Estimates are Kshs29,646,245,000. In our Supplementary Estimates, that figure has been reduced to Kshs29,234,000,000.

If you go into the sub-heads, you will see the figure for House Allowance which is totalling to Kshs16,858,000,000, approximately. This is what has been reduced by approximately Kshs393 million. If you go below that, on Hardship Allowance, you will see that there has been no change to the previous Estimates. If you go to Medical Allowance, you will see that there is a change of Kshs16 billion. Those two are the only ones that are reflected in the Supplementary Estimates. The rest have not been reflected because no changes were made from the amounts that were previously approved by this House.

(Several hon. Members stood up in their paces)

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order, hon. Members! Order, Mr. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance! Do not fault the Speaker from your seat.

This is a matter that on the face of it is grave. A figure of anything near Kshs9 billion, let alone Kshs1 billion, is mind boggling. This matter is now in the public domain. Kenyans are entitled to know what the truthful and correct position is. In those circumstances, therefore, I will refer this matter to the Parliamentary Departmental Committee on Finance, Planning and Trade to inquire into and report to this House on whether or not there are any inconsistencies that, perhaps, indicate that public funds have been misapplied.

That is the order of the Chair. I want hon. Members to note. Mr. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, please note, that because this matter is in the public domain, Kenyans are entitled to know. This direction does not in any way encumber the House from proceeding with business on the Supplementary Estimates, not in any way whatsoever.

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance (Mr. Kenyatta): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. The issue before this House not only brings to disrepute

my personal integrity but that of the entire Treasury on a matter, which we have clearly illustrated. Hence, I would suggest that we do not proceed any further with these Estimates. If indeed, as you have said, if a figure of Kshs9 billion has been defrauded, or the Kenyan taxpayer has been defrauded of that kind of a figure, I would require---

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance! As your Speaker and Chair, this afternoon, I have not said that the Kenyan public has been defrauded. I have not said that. I am not about to say that and I will not say so. Mr. Minister, given that your position, as you say, is clear, and you have clarified it, then the Departmental House Finance Committee will merely confirm that as the position. I do not see any harm in that. It merely confirms that as the position. We have no reason to hold finances that are due to Kenyans at ransom merely because the Finance Committee will confirm what the accurate position is. Indeed, Parliament has a duty to hold the Executive to account, including the Minister for Finance. I do not see anything wrong with the direction that I have given. If your position is truthful and accurate, then the direction I have given is innocuous, it does not hurt you. If anything, it will exonerate you. It will prove that you are completely innocent and that your officers are doing their job, as they should for the Kenyan public. Please, accept that direction.

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance (Mr. Kenyatta): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Shakeel: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Not on this matter. I have made a ruling on this matter. I am afraid this House must transact business.

Ms. S. Abdalla: On a point of clarification, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: On a direction given by the Speaker? The Speaker does not contribute to debate. Please! Order!

Next Order! Order, hon. Members! We shall now proceed to Prime Minister's time, which will be on its maiden run.

PRIME MINISTER'S TIME

Question No.QPM001

GOVERNMENT DIRECTIVE ON MARRIED COUPLES WORKING IN PUBLIC SERVICE

Mr. K. Kilonzo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I rise on behalf of the hon. Member for Yatta to submit the following Question to the Prime Minister. I have not received a written answer as yet.

Why did the Government decide that married couples should not work in various Government Departments or Authorities under the Ministry of Finance?

The Prime Minister (Mr. Raila): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sorry if the hon. Member has not received an answer. It is not a fault on my side. I signed an answer. I want, through the hon. Member, to convey thanks to the hon. Member for Yatta for being the first Member to ask a Question.

(Applause)

The hon. Member did not read out the Question. However, I beg to reply.

Members of the Kenyan public have expressed concerns, principally through the print and electronic media regarding a directive by the Ministry of Finance that all married couples working in the same State corporations be required to make a choice within six months who between them is to relinquish their employment. It was stated that the objective of this directive is to reduce the opportunities for conflict of interest. I wish to inform the House and the public that the Grand Coalition Government position is as follows:

One, this particular directive has not been deliberated and agreed upon by the Cabinet. It is not intended to be the policy of the Grand Coalition Government to discriminate against public servants on the basis of their marital status. Two, there is no law or official regulation barring employment of married couples in the State corporations. Three, the Grand Coalition Government will not wish to disrupt the livelihoods of public servants but it is rather committed to supporting the family unity.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have therefore, directed the Ministry of Finance to withdraw the said directive to maintain the *status quo*. I also wish to assure all public servants that the Government will continue to safeguard their rights in order to provide them with an environment that is conducive to quality service delivery. Good corporate governance requires that cases of real or perceived conflict of interest are dealt with firmly and fairly. Marriage in itself is not an automatic ground for conflict of interest, neither can it be viewed as a recipe for corruption at the work place. Various approaches have been applied to deal with the issue and in some instances, a spouse is precluded from seeking employment in the same organization where the partner is already employed. In other cases, those who get married while in employment within the same organization are not allowed in the same department or over the same assignment.

I have, therefore, directed the Ministry of State for Public Service to rapidly develop, through effective consultation within the Government and based on the best international practices, a draft policy on this matter for due consideration by the Cabinet. In developing that policy, due consideration shall be accorded to the special circumstances of teachers, doctors, nurses and security personnel.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members, we will allow a maximum of three clarifications beginning with Mr. K. Kilonzo.

Mr. K. Kilonzo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to thank the Prime Minister for that comprehensive answer and more so for the directive that, that earlier directive was not the position of the Grand Coalition Government and therefore should be withdrawn.

However, Mr. Prime Minister, Kenyans are suffering because of this Grand Coalition Government when you as a Principal and the President are not talking. Directives are being issued and then you come to the Floor of this House to direct that they be withdrawn. How will Kenyans know that this directive has not been agreed upon by part of the Government while this other directive has been agreed upon by the marriage of the Grand Coalition Government?

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Prime Minister, please take notes because we are going to take three more clarifications and you will respond to them and conclude your session.

Mr. Wamalwa: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to also thank the Prime Minister and the Government for withdrawing that very oppressive directive. Indeed, if a couple was

asked to relinquish their positions, then it would endanger the institution of marriage. There are people who would not relinquish their jobs. They would rather relinquish their partners. So, I want to thank you for withdrawing that.

However, I wish to request the Prime Minister to shed light on the issue because it is very worrying that such an oppressive directive could have come from the Ministry whereas it had not been discussed at the Cabinet level and passed.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are two more directives that are very oppressive and I would like the Prime Minister to confirm to the House and to Kenyans whether they have also been agreed upon and passed by the Cabinet. One is increasing the retirement age from 55 years to 60 years. Perhaps, this is one that should be withdrawn on behalf of the youth of this nation. Secondly, there is one where one cannot access their benefits until they reach the retirement age of 55 years. But now the age has been raised to 60 years. Has that also been approved or is it another oppressive directive that you have the audacity to withdraw?

Mr. Speaker: Last clarification, Mr. Mungatana!

Mr. Mungatana: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also want to thank the Prime Minister on that directive that he has given. I would like to hear a further clarification from him following the directive. We know that the Ministry of Finance, to a certain extent, exercises some Executive powers, unlike other Ministries. The same applies to the Ministry of Local Government. What I want to know from the Prime Minister is whether we are creating a situation of potential conflict between an Executive directive from the Ministry of Finance and the Office of the Prime Minister? If so, what will happen, because we have to move carefully so that the country moves forward in an appropriate manner?

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Prime Minister, you may now respond.

Mr. K. Kilonzo: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I had reserved the last remark, as the Questioner, as has been the practice of the House. If you allow me, I would want to---

Mr. Speaker: Order, Mr. K. Kilonzo! The practice of the House on Ministerial Statements is well captured in our records. With respect to the Prime Minister's Time, this is a new introduction in our Standing Orders, so we do not have past practice in relation to that. In arriving at this *modus operandi*, we examined what other jurisdictions do and we found that other jurisdictions practise, during the Prime Minister's Time, allow only the Questioner to seek further clarifications directly on the Floor of the House from the Prime Minister. They do not allow other Members to seek clarification. But we believe that in our unique circumstances, it is in the interest of the House and, indeed, the Kenyan public to open up room for clarifications beyond the person seeking the Ministerial Statement. It is for that reason that I indicated that clarifications will be restricted to three, beginning with the hon. Member seeking the Ministerial Statement from the Prime Minister. Indeed, Mr. K. Kilonzo, I did give you the first bite at the cherry. So, you are done. You will have to bear with that.

Proceed, Mr. Prime Minister!

Mr. K. Kilonzo: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Do not challenge that direction because I was clear from the beginning.

Mr. K. Kilonzo: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I am happy again to benefit from your wisdom. Just like you have said, this is the first time that we are beginning this. It is maiden. I hope you will allow me to seek my last clarification and it shall not be repeated.

Mr. Speaker: Order, hon. K. Kilonzo! Since this is a new phenomenon and given your earnest plea, I will make that exception so that you seek further clarification. That will be married into your first clarification. It will be as if you sought one clarification. Is that all right? This is going to be the practice henceforth; that an hon. Member seeking a Ministerial Statement from the Prime Minister will seek the first clarification or he will have the first opportunity and there will be two other hon. Members allowed and that will be it. We will close with the response from the Prime Minister.

Mr. Nyamweya: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Not on this matter! Order!

Mr. Nyamweya: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order! Order, hon. Nyamweya! At the beginning of this Session of Parliament, I pleaded with hon. Members that we need to concentrate on the core business that we are here about. Can we, please, try and recollect ourselves and just get to that? I know we are covered live and we all want to be seen and heard but, please, you have opportunities even after this. There is a whole Motion to which you can contribute and suggest changes or amendments. You have a lot of room to do that.

Mr. Nyamweya: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Yes, Mr. Nyamweya. What is it?

Mr. Nyamweya: Mr. Speaker, Sir, much as I regret that I have to say what I have to say, I feel that, somehow, there is an oppressive spirit coming into the House. The point of order I wish to raise does not relate--- This is a new matter and, perhaps, it might be useful to listen to us, if you want to learn. Since you are introducing something new---

Mr. Speaker: Order, Mr. Nyamweya! I am now listening to you. Proceed! Do not lose valuable time.

Mr. Nyamweya: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as per the Standing Orders and the Constitution, the President, Vice-President, Prime Minister and Ministers are all Ministers in this House. Therefore, if you are going to ask the Prime Minister questions, should it not be on the same basis that they are Ministers answering on behalf of the Government?

If we are going to be reduced to not asking questions, are we protecting the Prime Minister from our interrogation? It should be open for us to be able to interrogate him

(Applause)

Mr. Speaker: I appreciate that concern and I will want to give it a little more consideration and give direction.

(Applause)

Although, at face value, quite naturally, the President is not the same as the Vice-President, neither is the Prime Minister the same as a Minister; neither is a Minister the

same as an Assistant Minister, but that, notwithstanding, I will come up with a more considered ruling.

Yes, Mr. K. Kilonzo!

Mr. K. Kilonzo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I am going to be very fast just to marry the clarifications, especially on the issue of directives. I want the Prime Minister to tell this House the following: The directive that was given by the Managing Director of Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) on the maize which was contaminated was overruled by another directive given from your office. Which one was from the Coalition Government and which one was from a different Government? That is because it is important for us, as a nation, to know when the Prime Minister or any Minister in this Government is talking as a Minister of the Coalition Government or as a Minister in a factional government.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Prime Minister, you may now respond.

The Prime Minister (Mr. Raila): Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. K. Kilonzo first made a very erroneous statement that the Prime Minister and the President are not talking. Indeed, the Prime Minister and the President speak all the time. Even just this morning, we have had a meeting.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member talked about directives being issued left, right and centre. I want to let the hon. Member know that we are not trying to micro-manage the Government. Ministers have the freedom to run their Ministries. It is only when an issue like this comes to light that appropriate consideration is made and decisions are taken. So, the Government is working as one unit.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, about the directive he talked about, let me deal with that first and then I am going to make my statement. Hon. Eugene Wamalwa talked about the G10 and, maybe, that we may take advantage of that kind of a situation. I thought the G10 were more concerned with abstinence or boycott domestically, and not at the place of work.

(Laughter)

Allow me, Mr. Speaker, Sir, to postpone this for a more substantive question, which was about the retirement age having been raised from 55 to 60 years. Yes, I can confirm that, that is the case. The Cabinet has considered the issue and decided to raise the retirement age from 55 to 60 years.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a substantive Question which has been asked and I have referred it to the Minister for Public Service to answer substantively. Therefore, I want to plead with the hon. Member to wait for the answer, which will come to this House in due course.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the other one was about the retirement benefits not being withdrawn until a certain period of time. Again, all that is going to be part of the comprehensive statement that is going to be made by the Minister for Public Service on that subject.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Mungatana asked whether the Executive powers which are conferred to the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Local Government will conflict with the Executive powers of the President and those of the Prime Minister. The answer is no.

They are complimentary. They are not contradictory at all and they work very much harmoniously. The Minister for Finance is given Executive powers because of the very special nature of his responsibilities, just like those of the Minister for Local Government.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I hope that I have substantively responded to the questions that have been addressed to me,

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to make a statement to the House.

PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT

LAUNCHING OF PRIME MINISTER'S QUESTION TIME

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to begin by thanking this august House for making it possible for the Prime Minister to interact with hon. Members here on a weekly basis; answering hon. Members' Questions and also making statements about the policies of Government.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, today is a historic day when we are launching the Prime Minister's Question Time. This moment has come at a very critical period in our country's history. I know that there are many Kenyans watching right now and who are worried about the economy more than anything else. As we all sit here, there are Kenyans whose confidence in this nation is shaken to the core because our politics, lately, have become fairly turbulent and unpredictable.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no better place for us to begin restoring the faith of our people than in this House. Recent experience has shown that when this House pulls together and boldly confronts the challenges facing our country and takes responsibility, the country rallies together. This was the case last year when this House came together and passed several Bills. That spirit of unity enabled us to unite the country, last time, following the turmoil in the post election period. That is the spirit that I want to appeal to, as we begin this great experiment where the Prime Minister will be taking questions on behalf of the Government.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, every parliamentary term has had its unique challenges to deal with. Our First Parliament was charged with the responsibility of laying the foundation of one united nation. It appears that the tempests and storms that come with the nurturing of a young nation persistently chipped away that foundation until in 2007, when the foundation severely caved in some places and collapsed in others.

The Fourth Parliament faced the challenge of whether to stand up with the people against an Executive that had run amok and wanted to introduce a one party system *de jure* or to support that Executive. The parliamentarians who sat here on 9th June, 1982, set a landmark in the political history by enacting the law that made Kenya a *de jure* one party State. We paid very dearly for that decision.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the challenge of the Tenth Parliament is to build a new foundation that takes this nation into eternity. I am painfully aware that after one year of stewardship by the Grand Coalition, a mood of impatience, frustration, diminishing faith, despondency and anxiety is engulfing our beloved nation. Our people are impatient for results. They are frustrated at the slow pace of reforms. They are losing faith in public

institutions. They are despondent due to insecurity and anxious about their economic safety and that of their children in the years ahead.

Many of our people are still recovering from the adverse effects of the unprecedented violence that followed the disputed Presidential Elections of 2007. Millions of our people remain trapped in dehumanizing poverty from cradle to grave. The challenges of insecurity, poor infrastructure and youth unemployment remain. This is no cause for despair. The Grand Coalition Government was conceived and dedicated to restoration of peace and stability as much as it was to the realization of the fundamental reforms. We have worked together under very difficult circumstances in the past and we can do so again.

Parliament was responsible for making these achievements. Parliament passed several amendments to the Constitution that made it possible for us to set up a team of panel of experts to look at our Constitution and try to set up a Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission and set up a new electoral commission. Of the Agenda IV that we set out to implement, we have achieved about three. What is remaining among those three is just the question of resettlement of the IDPs---

(Loud consultations)

Mr. Mungatana: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. With a lot of respect to the hon. Prime Minister, there are loud consultations from that corner of the Government. If we could just be given time to listen.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members, could you, please, lower the level of your consultations, so that we can hear the Prime Minister?

The Prime Minister (Mr. Raila): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are dealing with the issue of resettling the few that are still remaining in the IDP camps then we will be complete with Agenda III. We have Agenda IV to deal with. It deals with fundamental reforms; the new Constitution. We have already set up a panel of experts to spearhead the process of this new constitutional review. I am confident that with the co-operation of the House and Kenyans at large, we should be able to give this country a new Constitution in due course.

The other one is to do with land reforms. Land was at the core of the Independence struggle in this country. The people of this country shed blood in order to regain land that had been taken away by colonialists. It has taken a very long time. It has been a long struggle because at Independence, many nationalists were calling for comprehensive land reforms. It has deluded this country for a long time. As I speak, I am happy to report to the House that we have a land use policy document, which is before the Cabinet. Once it is passed by the Cabinet, we shall bring it to this House and I hope we will have it passed.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is unacceptable that many of our people remain landless while others are squatters in their country, 45 years since Independence. This is one issue where I hope we will get the co-operation of hon. Members, so that we can have a new land policy that will make land, which is a factor of production, accessible and available to our people for that purpose.

We are also dealing with the issue of reforms in the police force. Over the last few days, Kenyans had to bury very many people killed in Mathira and Kirinyaga by a gang

of thugs. Many other Kenyans have lost their lives in the hands of security forces which are employed to protect them. We must deal with the issue of police reforms. We want to reform the police force, so that the police do what they are hired and paid to do, to protect the lives and property of Kenyans.

Mr. Ruto: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. With due respect to the hon. Prime Minister---

An hon. Member: He is Right Hon. Prime Minister!

Mr. Ruto: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are still learning how to put all those words in one sentence.

He has given answers to the questions that were put to him. He also said he wanted to make a statement, which he has done. I think it would be important for the Chair to give us guidance on how long these statements will be and the scope. What is the Prime Minister's Time expected to cover? Is it similar to the statements that were given to us by His Excellency the President during the opening of Parliament? Shall we be listening to these amounts of coverage on various subjects? I thought we would have time to interrogate the Prime Minister on the performance of the Government. If he will take all that time, then it is not worth our sitting in the Chambers for that length of time.

Mr. Speaker: Order! The length of time that the Prime Minister's Time will take is expressly provided for in the Standing Orders. It is 45 minutes and will remain so unless the Standing Orders are amended. The Prime Minister started at 3.15 p.m., so he is allowed to proceed until 4.00 p.m. He will have done 45 minutes. He is allowed to deliver Statements on any matter pertaining to Government policy or working as he deems appropriate and advisable. We will leave that to his prerogative. However, it is the expectation of the Chair and maybe the House that he will address matters that are topical, current and that Kenyans are concerned about.

With that guidance, Right hon. Prime Minister, please, proceed. You have another seven minutes.

The Prime Minister (Mr. Raila): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, today was the maiden day. There were not many Questions. There was only one Question that was sent to me. The others were not cross-cutting and, therefore, were referred elsewhere.

However, the way this system works is that a big part of it is spent on answering Questions and then the Prime Minister makes a statement on key policy issues of the day. Since there is a lot of time, I will take a little of that time to inform the House on the general agenda that we have as a Government and the issues we are trying to focus on in the coming period. That is why I am touching quickly on some of the issues, namely, the reforms that we want to carry out in Government. You will see that what I am talking about is very different from some of the issues that were raised by the President during his opening Address.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I mentioned, we also want to deal with these reforms, so that we deal with the issue of extra-judicial killings that has cost the lives of very many innocent Kenyans. So, we are shortly going to set up, within this week, a task force to spearhead the process of police reforms.

The other area we want to deal with quickly is that of judicial reforms. It is generally accepted that the Judiciary is one of the major impediments to investment in this country. Kenyans complain that cases take too long to be adjudicated. You will have

noticed when Judges from East Africa were meeting yesterday, even our Chief Justice admitted that Kenya has the highest number of backlog of cases. We have over 800,000 cases that have not been resolved. It is a big shame.

Therefore, we want to carry out a surgical reform of the Judiciary. The reforms will enable us to come up with a Judiciary that is user-friendly, and which will serve the interests of this country.

Mr. J.I. Kamau: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: What is it?

Mr. J.I. Kamau: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I just want to know from the Prime Minister whether the policy issues that he is talking about are issues discussed by the Cabinet or whether they are from his own office?

The Prime Minister (Mr. Raila): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would consider that question to be irrelevant. I am speaking as the Prime Minister of the Republic of Kenya. You will note that no Minister will contradict what I am saying, because this is Government policy.

We also want to deal with the issue of corruption in the country. Corruption diverts resources from public use to private pockets. That is why we want to deal with corruption by reforming the criminal justice system in our country.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, let me conclude my remarks by trying to answer the question that was raised by the Member of Parliament for Mutitu. There has been a lot of talk about the issue of maize. There is also a Report by a Parliamentary Committee, which is going to come to this House shortly. I do not want to anticipate debate.

However, on the issue that was raised regarding a consignment of maize of about 6,000 tons, which were found to be contaminated at the Port of Mombasa, as raised by the hon. Member, I would want to say that the issue was handled by the National Food Security Committee when the exporters raised the matter with the Committee.

We received three test results from three different institutions, namely the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS), the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Services (KEPHIS) and the Government Chemist. The results from the three institutions contradicted each other. There were three different test results from the KEBS. One said the consignment was fit for human consumption---

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order, Mr. Prime Minister. I am being informed that, in fact, the Chair has granted leave to Mr. Kazungu for a Ministerial Statement to come from the Minister in charge on the matter of contaminated maize and related issues. So, you may want to wait until your Minister brings his or her Ministerial Statement.

The Prime Minister (Mr. Raila): Mr. Speaker, Sir, yes, but since the matter was raised here, just as a matter of public interest, I just want to say that the Committee that I chaired passed the resolution that, irrespective of the test results for that consignment, the consignment would never be used for human consumption. That resolution is minuted in the records of the Committee that I chaired.

So, I want it to be clear because the matter is in the media today. It must be understood that never did we ever want maize whose fitness for human consumption was in dispute, to be given to the public. We decided that even if the test results showed that the maize was fit for humans, it would never be used for humans consumption.

We had also said that if the tests showed that the maize was unfit for human consumption---

(Mr. K. Kilonzo stood up in his place)

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order! Mr. Prime Minister, please, try to conclude. What is it, Mr. K. Kilonzo?

Mr. K. Kilonzo: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. The Prime Minister is misleading this House. He might be in Government, as he purports to be, but he is misleading this House for the simple reason that it was very clear from the KEBS report that the maize consignment was not supposed to be off-loaded. It was actually supposed to be sent back to South Africa. However, he intervened and decided that the maize should be off-loaded. Where was it taken? Who consumed it? Who imported the maize, Mr. Prime Minister?

(Applause)

The Assistant Minister, Ministry of State for Provincial Administration and Internal Security (Mr. Ojode): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. The hon. Member uttered words, which are not correct. He said that the Prime Minister purports to be Government. The Prime Minister does not purport to be Government. The Prime Minister is Government! Is he right to utter those words? Is it in order?

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order, hon. Members! The Right Hon. Prime Minister is the Prime Minister of the Republic of Kenya. Period! That is what the Constitution says. So, let us not raise issues on this one.

The Assistant Minister for East African Community (Mr. Munya): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: What is it, Mr. Munya?

The Assistant Minister for East African Community (Mr. Munya): Mr. Speaker, Sir, you remember the issue of Leader of Government Business. It was actually a problem of definition of who is Government. Have we now found a definition, so that the Prime Minister now is Government? It is still a constitutional issue!

Mr. Speaker: Order, Mr. Munya! What we have before the House now is the Prime Minister's Time. As things stand today, there is a Prime Minister who is recognised under the laws of this land. The Chair will not be dragged into any other issues that are not before the House now.

Proceed, Mr. Prime Minister and conclude your Statement!

The Prime Minister (Mr. Raila): Mr. Speaker, Sir, let me inform the hon. Member that my Office does not order nor does it stop maize from being exported. My Office only investigates when complaints are brought to its attention. This aspect falls within the purview of supervision and co-ordination of Government affairs. The argument was that if this maize is unfit for human consumption, South Africans are also human beings and so, why export it instead of destroying it here, rather than incurring costs in shipping it back to South Africa?

Mr. K. Kilonzo: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Order, Mr. K. Kilonzo! We have run out of time and the Prime Minister has to conclude this Statement!

Mr. K. Kilonzo: But, Mr. Speaker, Sir---

Mr. Speaker: Order, Mr. K. Kilonzo! You must respect the Chair. We cannot turn this House into a *baraza!* Please, respect the Chair.

The Prime Minister (Mr. Raila): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in order to develop a consensus in this House, it is necessary for sobriety to reign when we are dealing with critical national issues. I appeal to the House to be united when we face major challenges aimed at uniting this country. It will not be possible for us to give this country a new Constitution, something that this House is challenged to do, if we do not work in a united manner. It is, therefore, important that sobriety prevails and compromises made. This House should show this country the leadership that is required. If the Tenth Parliament does that, then it will seal its place in the history of our country.

I thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members, that should bring us to the end of Statements. As we move to close this session, I referred the matter pertaining to various figures in the Budget *vis-à-vis* those in the Supplementary Estimates to the Departmental Committee on Finance, Planning and Trade to reconcile and file a report in the House but I did not give a time line. Because of the urgency of this matter, and because we must, as a House, deal with the matter pertaining to Supplementary Estimates, I direct that, that Report be filed in the House not later than Tuesday, next week. This is because this Committee will be dealing with just 200 entries that are merely mathematical. We expect that reconciliation to be done expeditiously. There is no reason to delay that reconciliation beyond Tuesday next week. So, that Report must be filed in the House on Tuesday, next week!

The Assistant Minister, Ministry of State for Planning, National Development and Vision 2030 (Mr. Kenneth): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Could I be in order to request you to consider giving a considered ruling on the matter Mr. Nyamweya raised? As is the practice elsewhere during the Prime Minister's Question Time, we could also refrain from asking questions in writing. This is because part of his duties is co-ordination and supervision of Government Ministries. Hon. Members should ask him questions on the spot during his Time.

Mr. Speaker: Fair enough. I will endeavour to cover that.

Mr. Mungatana: Mr. Speaker, Sir, to follow up on what Messrs. Nyamweya and Kenneth have said, I would imagine that after the Right hon. Prime Minister has given his Statement, we would be given an opportunity to, at least, seek clarifications. This is because he is making serious Statements on behalf of the Government. As hon. Members of this House, we would like to interrogate those Statements. For example, on the question of the Leader of the House Business Committee (HBC) that is pending, what is wrong with us seeking a clarification from him so that he can tell us when they will solve this problem because the country cannot continue running in this manner? The Prime Minister has talked about the economy and I would like to say---

Mr. Speaker: Order, Mr. Mungatana! Your point is made and I will consider it even as I prepare that Communication.

Mr. Mungatana: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mrs. Shabesh: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Would I be in order to notify the Chair of the Report that Mr. Kazungu and I brought back from our trip to the Westminster and the recommendations---

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order! That is not relevant to the business before the House.

Mr. Ethuro: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Mine is with regard to your ruling on the matter that has been referred to the Departmental Committee on Finance, Planning and Trade. I would like to persuade you on this because you are aware of the Budget Committee of this House. As far as scrutiny of the Supplementary Estimates and, indeed, the entire budgetary allocations are concerned--- We will also look into this matter as this is within our Standing Orders.

Mr. Speaker: That is a legitimate proposal. Indeed, the House has set a precedent on this matter from the Ninth Parliament when the House charged its Committee to inquire into the matter of the Armenian brothers. We constituted a joint committee composed of Members from the Committee on the Administration of Justice and the Committee on Security. The two Committees worked together as a joint Committee. So, the Budget Committee is directed to work jointly with the Departmental Committee on Finance, Planning and Trade to make the Report that must be brought before the House on Tuesday, next week.

Mr. Twaha: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I am wondering whether some of the points of order which have been raised are not frivolous and a cheap---

Mr. Speaker: Order, Mr. Twaha! Order!

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members, the prerogative and, indeed, the discretion to decide what is frivolous and vexatious or what is not, rests with the Speaker. I will not allow hon. Members to usurp that role!

Mr. Twaha: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we need to protect the dignity of this House. All of us took oath here to defend and protect the Constitution. I have never walked on the same side with the Prime Minister, but I do not think it is fair for any Member of this House to say that he is purporting to be in the Government and get away with it. This is a serious issue!

Mr. Speaker: Order, Mr. Twaha! This matter has been covered and, indeed, the Chair has clarified it. I do not want you to persist on that line. Please, refrain from doing so. If anything, you are in breach of the Standing Orders yourself. You are being repetitive. If you are repetitive, you are out of order! Perhaps, because you had reasons not to follow the proceedings earlier on, you will be excused this afternoon.

(Laughter)

Next Order!

MOTION

THANKS FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

THAT, the thanks of this House be recorded for the exposition of public policy contained in His Excellency's Presidential Address from the Chair on Tuesday, 21st April, 2009, and laid on the Table of the House on Tuesday, 21st April, 2009.

(The Vice-President and Minister for Home Affairs on 21.4.2009)

(Resumption of Debate interrupted on 6.5.2009)

Mr. Speaker: Who was on the Floor? Hon. J. Kamau is not present!
Proceed, Mr. Munya!

The Assistant Minister for East African Community (Mr. Munya): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute on the “Presidential Budget Speech”.

The “Presidential Budget Speech” was loaded with a lot of policy issues that this House must address within this Session. But we may be able do so many things as a Government; we may be able to do many roads as a Government---

Mr. Midiwo: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Could the Assistant Minister clarify which “Presidential Budget Speech” he is contributing to?

The Assistant Minister for East African Community (Mr. Munya): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was talking about the Presidential Speech and I am sure my good friend was speaking tongue-in-cheek. I was saying that this Government has done very well in terms of doing roads, providing water to people and even improving health care. It has done a lot but there is one fundamental issue that may endanger all those things that this Government is doing if that issue is not addressed. The stability of a country is the bedrock for any development and welfare. In fact, the future prosperity of a country depends on its stability. That stability also rests on the rule of law. If the rule of law is not properly observed, then the country slowly losses its stability and will enter into problems like the one we experienced during the elections. It is worrying if you look at the way the rule of law is being chipped away in this country as we go along. You will find citizens being killed by gangs and the police are nowhere to take care and enforce the law. Lives are lost and then, other criminals hanging around who see that happening realise that they can also do the same and nothing happens to them.

You will find citizens uprooting a railway line, sabotaging an economy and the police supervise them as they commit that crime. It is a very worrying trend that needs to be arrested. The country is slowly developing into lawlessness and despondency. Labour Day where Kenyan leaders are gathered to listen to their workers and to celebrate the contribution of the workers of this country to the economy and to their country, when the Minister is making a speech, you see hooligans throwing stones at him purporting to be protesting. Protest is good; it is important. We have protected it in our Constitution. There is a difference between protest, demonstration and breaking the law. This worrying trend, if it is not arrested, all the gains that we have been talking about, even the entire issue of multiparty democracy that we have fought for, for many years will be endangered. In fact, the entire entity that we call Kenyan will be endangered if the Government does not take the rule of law seriously. I am saying this especially where you see a situation where you have a Coalition Government that is shaky; one that is pulling apart and not working together. In that situation, things even get worse. If only there was stability in the Government, then Kenyans would, at least, have some hope. That is why we are seeing a lot of despondency. People are unhappy across the country because they are not seeing things moving in the direction they are moving.

So, Mr. Speaker, Sir, the most important thing that Kenyans would want to see is the top leaders of this country working together, talking less and doing more. We have a lot of talk! In fact, the Government’s work is not to talk. The work of the Government, once you are in the Executive arm of the Government, it is to execute policy and

implement. The citizens of this country hope that in the coming few months and years as we approach 2012, we will see more work being executed and implemented so that we can continue building this country.

I also wanted to touch on the reforms that we have been talking about for a long time that we have not yet been able to bring. Those are the reforms that the Prime Minister also alluded to when he was giving his speech. The issue of reforming the Kenyan police force to make it a more professional force, a force that can respond to emergencies when they occur; a force that can enforce the rule of law, protect the rights of the citizens of this country and protect the rights of Kenyans to own property, walk and operate freely without harassment by criminals or other people. Those reforms are very urgent, to avoid the situation that we found ourselves in when we went for the elections.

The issue of dealing with the Judiciary, we have differing opinions. There are people who feel that perhaps, we do not need any reforms in the Judiciary. There are others who feel that all we need is to increase the number of judges, then our problems will go away. I differ with them because apart from having enough judges, we also want to see them working well. We also want to see them enabled to do their work. We also want to see people of integrity being appointed in the Judiciary and, indeed, we also want to see the process of appointment being streamlined and made more transparent. Indeed, some of us would want to see those jobs being advertised so that the best minds that we have, lawyers that can do that job very well, can get an opportunity to apply for those jobs and then we see the recruitment being done properly so that the best that we have can serve us in our courts. Again, this is an issue that touches on what I began with; the bedrock of the rule of the law for the stability of any country. If the arm of the Judiciary is not working very well, if the police force is not working very well, then you cannot have the rule of law operating very well. A country in that state is on the way to anarchy. These reforms are extremely urgent so that we can lay the groundwork for elections in 2012. I am saying this because we have heard many Kenyans saying we should go for elections. Everywhere you go, Kenyans who are unhappy ask: "Can we have elections quickly? Can we have the Electoral Commission in place so that we can have elections quickly?" However, I would also want to say that the mere act of going to vote is not going to help this country if the institutional framework that is going to give those elections credibility - that will ensure that those elections are free and fair; that will make those elections not only to be free and fair but to be seen to be free and fair so that the citizens can have confidence in the results of those elections - is not in place.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we need to have the institution streamlined urgently so that we have a basis for free and fair elections. That is why the Independent Interim Electoral Commission (IIEC) that this House created the other day has its work cut out. It should be able to clean the voter registers. It should also make sure that all Kenyans of voting age are registered so that they are able to participate in this very important exercise. They should ensure that ghost voters, who we are told are in the voter registers, are cleansed from the registers so that we have a clear reflection of the population of this country and people who can vote.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is also the issue of boundaries review. Some areas are highly populated but are represented in Parliament by one Member. You will also find a

place with a third the population of other constituencies also represented by one Member of Parliament.

I beg to support.

Mr. Nyambati: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to also contribute on the President's Address to this august House.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to start by saying that the Grand Coalition Government has not done service to this country. It looks more like an Opposition. We need to ensure that the Grand Coalition Government works. I want to take it from where the Prime Minister left when he said that we must make compromises and we must give and take. It is extremely important that this Grand Coalition Government is not seen like one competing for positions of power but rather as a Government which has the interest of this nation at heart.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are many things that we, as a nation and a House, must address. There is the issue of the Constitution, which we must attend to. This House must address urgent issues like that of the Constitution. We have put in place the Committee of Experts which has to look into the Constitution amendment. We must support them. We must stop wrangling and start work as a House and as a Government.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I said, there are many issues that we must address in this country. These issues were covered by the President's Address. One of them is the issue of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). It is a shame that even as I speak at this point in time, we still have IDPs in the country. They are so many and yet we are fighting over power and positions. This must not be seen to be happening. We must address the issues affecting our country. I know I have IDPs in my constituency and they are suffering. We need to address issues affecting this country and our people. These issues must take priority over other issues.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue of IDPs, as I have said, brings shame to this country because more than a year down the line, our people are still languishing in areas where they should not be. We must help them. I want to urge those in power, including Members of Parliament, Ministers and all those who hold positions of power, to ensure that we fight for those basic needs for the society. We must give our people hope.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are many other issues which have been addressed in this House like the issue of insecurity. By now, we must ensure that we have security in this country. Issues of *Mungiki*, *Amachuma* and others, must not be there. We must not brand an entire community *Mungiki*, *Chinkororo* or whatever. We need to ensure that we have security in this country. Those who go wrong should be arrested and charged as people who commit crimes as opposed to branding them names.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is also the issue of unemployment. The *Kazi Kwa Vijana* initiative which was recently launched by the leadership must be a serious programme. We do not want to talk about things which do not happen. Where I come from, the *Kazi Kwa Vijana* programme is not there. I wonder whether it is being seen in one part of the country and not others.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue of food security in this country is paramount. Almost 50 years since Independence, we are not self sufficient in food. There is no food security in this country. We have a lot of water, some of which kills people in Budalangi. We should harvest this water and make sure we use it for the purpose of food production. We have areas like Ukambani, which have big chunks of land which we should use to ensure

that we produce enough food for this country. It is shameful that we do not do this. We must get our priorities right.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to address the issue of education. Education is pertinent because a nation that cannot take care of the knowledge of its youth is doomed. Where I come from, many schools do not have even one or two teachers employed by the Government and yet they have a whole lot of students from Form One to Form Four. How do you expect our children to do better if we cannot invest in education? The issue of employing teachers is paramount for good education standards in this country. We must ensure that our youth are educated in the right way.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to comment on the energy sector. This sector has done tremendously well, especially in the Rural Electrification Programme (REP). The Authority is doing a wonderful job and we must fund it so that it meets all the requirements of this nation. Until and unless we have electricity in our rural areas, we might not be able to develop as rapidly as we want. If we want to envisage the Vision 2030, we must have electricity in rural areas. In my constituency, I have about 400 schools and only ten have electricity. It is important that we start directing these issues where our people are.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we must also address the issue of sports. The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports is doing good work. It is only that we are under-funding the Ministry. We need to look into this issue because many of our youth are catered for by this Ministry. We must finance that Ministry adequately so that as opposed to our youth engaging in criminal activities, we can engage them in sports activities. They can even grow to international standards. This country is known to have wonderful sportsmen and sportswomen. Until and unless we nurture them and ensure that they are cared for, trained and given opportunity to compete, they will never emerge as international athletes or sports people of this country.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue of trade is paramount in any country. There is no single country in this world which can grow economically if the trade part of it is not taken care of. We must encourage trade. In this regard, I want to address the issue of the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry. This sector of the chamber must be protected. The Ministry concerned must ensure that it gives encouragement to our traders and business people, so that they can trade not only in the country, but they can also export our products.

I want to support the President's Speech which was very encouraging. I also want to end my speech by saying that for this country to move forward and have meaningful participation, the Grand Coalition Government must be seen to work together.

[Mr. Speaker left the Chair]

*[The Temporary Deputy Speaker
(Prof. Kamar) took the Chair]*

Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are sick and tired of seeing Government Ministers contradicting themselves. It is about time that the Cabinet gets its act together, so that they speak in one voice. If they cannot work together, I do not see how they will tell Kenyans to work together. We look forward to ensuring that we create

hope and dreams to our people and children of this country. We must make sure that our children can dream to be anything that they want in this country. We should assure them that they would get equal opportunities. They can be whatever they want to be if they work hard.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

The Minister for Transport (Mr. Mwakwere): Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker, first and foremost, I would like to thank you for giving me this opportunity to contribute to His Excellency the President's Address to this House on 21st April, 2009. It was, indeed, a prolific, visionary and encouraging Address to the nation and deserves every support.

Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker, this country is being run by a Grand Coalition Government. The fact that it is still holding and we have every confidence that it would hold throughout its term is a reflection of the wise leadership by the two principals. That, despite what we read and hear, there is a lot that is going on to ensure that the Coalition holds and this country benefits from that. It is not an easy arrangement. We should not take a lot of things for granted. It is a challenge that should not just be left to the two principals, but require the input of every Kenyan, whether elected or not.

Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker, the most important thing for this country is development. We are talking of development across the country. We are not talking about development in small sectors or sports. His Excellency the President mentioned that we would have a second transport corridor starting from Lamu to Isiolo in the middle of the country and a northward branch starting from Moyale and to Ethiopia and then from Isiolo to Lokichogio, to Juba and beyond. That in itself will open up development for this country. No country can develop without proper, efficient and well co-ordinated transport network. Kenya is a developed country in its right because we have an efficient transport system from Mombasa to Malaba and beyond. What does that mean?

If you look at all the developments in the country, in terms of universities, research institutes, secondary schools, quality primary schools, industries and true development in the essence of the word, all that is happening as a result of the railway line that was built over 100 years ago. That is true for every country. Where there is transport system constructed on land, be it road or rail, there is development that emerges or starts and gets sustained by the people for the benefit of the people themselves.

The second corridor that His Excellency the President talked about would, indeed, bring tremendous development in Kenya. It is like developing another Kenya in Kenya. This deserves the support of every one of us. Already, activities are put to realize the construction of Lamu Port, railway line, and road and pipeline linking those nodes that I have just mentioned.

We shall soon have conferences to sensitize people who live along the corridor that will be constructed. I organized a meeting in Lamu to sensitize Lamu people on the benefits of a second port that would be bigger than Mombasa Port. We will also soon hold a conference to sensitize elected leaders, including local leaders of communities, like myself for the Mijikenda community, so that they are aware of what is coming to them. These are aspects that will open up development, exploration of our land and mineral resources benefiting the whole country, and more so, the people who live along that corridor.

Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker, it is important that we, as a country, educate each other on the dangers of tribalism. This country seems to be drifting towards stronger tribal tendencies than ever before. This is most unfortunate. Here, the problem originates from what we call the bigger tribes. This is dangerous because the small ones tend to copy what is obtaining amongst the bigger and more developed communities in this country. I would like to urge these ten tribes because they know themselves; to know that there are smaller communities in this country. We need unity of purpose for development.

We need to recognize each other as Kenyans. We should not just think in a smaller sector, a manner that only benefits the community that one represents. This is an issue that we tend to sweep under the carpet, but it is a very worrying tendency. I would like to urge all Kenyans to shun tribal tendencies and give consideration to everybody, including the smaller communities, like the Digos and others.

It is important that we do not underrate the importance of the value of land. Communities have been cheated because of their lack of education. In a community like that of the Mijikenda, the idea of selling land does not arise. Traditionally, land is never sold. It is only mortgaged. One is paid exactly what one paid for at any time; whether there is development or not. Why is there that discrepancy? It is because of the difference in levels of education and modern knowledge on how to manage affairs. So, bear with them sometimes when they do not really understand what is obtaining today. But in so doing, give every community the right to express itself to be assisted because land is a very emotive issue. We need every support and assistance from those who are knowledgeable than others in this country.

Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker, we have been talking about employment, food and security. We have been talking about reforms. The biggest problem here is that we tend to expose our feelings in a violent manner. I would like to urge Kenyans to support His Excellency the President to ensure that there is always dialogue and understanding. If you want to move food on your table, you do not uproot the railway lines. If you want to have your boundaries checked properly in the country, you do not uproot a railway line. In fact, that action in Kibera did more damage to Kenya than to Uganda. This is because most of the goods to Uganda are transported by road. About 90 per cent of their goods are transported by road. However, there is a big percentage of goods that originate from Eldoret and in some parts of Western Kenya that use the railway line to Nairobi and onwards to Mombasa. So, we actually end up inflicting more pains on ourselves than the intended objectives because they use the wrong medium and action to achieve what is desired by all.

A lot of things that we have to get done need dialogue, consultation and understanding that the whole country needs to move in one direction. There is one thing that is happening in the country today; this is the problem of illicit drugs. Drugs are destroying many young people. This is happening in the epicenters of tourism in Lamu, Malindi, Mombasa, and Diani and now, even in big urban centres like Nairobi, Kisumu, Nakuru and Eldoret and yet we know that Kenyans are importing these hard drugs. There must be Kenyans who are making these orders. Those youngsters in the streets or villages do not know how to get them from wherever they are manufactured. It is a shame that Kenyans of sound mind exploit our youth and in the process, destroy their future. Some of them are living like zombies. In other words, the future of Kenya is truly in danger not

as a result of any other thing that you may consider dangerous but because of the drugs that are being sold in this country, sourced by Kenyans, we imagine of sound mind. I would like to urge Kenyans to be mindful of the future of this country because it is an extremely worrying situation. If hon. Members would one day visit those centres that I have mentioned, particularly the epicenters of tourism along the Coast, they will be shocked that the future of this country is truly in danger because our young people are getting a bad foundation in form of their lives, health and the future of their lives.

The CDF has helped this country very much. The problem is that there are some Government officers who give exorbitant or very high bills of quantities for projects. I know of a case in my constituency where with Kshs46 million, we could only construct a ward, two dormitories and the rest goes to bursaries. There is something seriously wrong in some of our officers' minds. Probably, they want to take advantage of the CDF arrangement to make money or to enrich themselves illegally. This is a situation that should be checked and I am sure that it exists in other constituencies in the country. I know that the Ministry of Works has proper guidelines for that purpose. I also know that officers are---

I beg to support.

Dr. Otichilo: Thank you, Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to the Presidential Speech which was delivered in this House during the opening of Third Session of this Parliament. First, and foremost, I want to congratulate the President for giving a very comprehensive Speech on the status of the economy of this country and giving the way forward on how we can tackle a myriad of problems this country is facing.

However, as much as I congratulate the President for giving a very comprehensive Speech, I was rather disappointed that he covered very little on reforms, particularly on the constitutional reforms and the Judiciary, among others. This, in my opinion, is a very important matter this House and country must address. I believe that this august House should put more emphasis on the constitutional review so that we deliver a new constitution to this country and we undertake the necessary reforms that will put this country to a straight path and give power to Kenyans. This is an issue that I wish to urge all the politicians across the political divide to come together and solve the problem. If we do not, Kenyans will not forgive us. Kenyans have been yearning for a new constitution for the last 15 years.

Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker, the President said that the Government had tackled the issue of IDPs and about 90 per cent of them had been resettled. However, we still have 10 per cent who are languishing in very bad conditions. It is important that the Government gives a very special consideration to this matter. It is really sad that after one year, we still have Kenyans languishing in dilapidated IDP camps where their source of livelihood is questionable and not guaranteed.

The issue of climate change is with us. We must agree that the climate has changed and we must come up with measures that will help us tackle the problem of climate change. We must come up with adaptive measures to mitigate climate change. In this regard, it is important that we, as Kenyans, give top priority to the conservation of water towers, particularly the forests. Destruction of forests in this country has contributed significantly to the rapid changes we are seeing in our weather and climatic changes. It is, therefore, important that we address this problem. It is my hope that very

soon; we will introduce a Bill, in this House, to deal with climate change because it is an aspect that we cannot afford to overlook.

The issue of water conservation is one that we also need to address. Water is becoming scarce in this country, throughout; even in the so-called high potential areas like western Kenya, most rivers have dried up. Where I come from in Emuhaya, we had rivers where people used to drown when crossing but today one can cross comfortably. It is, therefore, important that water conservation and soil conservation be addressed, particularly when we are addressing the issue of food security.

Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker, with regard to food security, I think because of the problem of climate change, we must address this issue differently. We must change our food production from rain-fed irrigation. When it rains, we have a lot of water that runs into Lake Victoria and into the Indian Ocean. After the rains, there is no water anywhere. We must, therefore, come up with water conservation measures. I want to applaud the Presidential Speech that covered a lot on the construction of dams. This is the way we should go. We should construct as many dams as possible. We also need to establish irrigation schemes so that we can ensure food security in this country.

The issue of infrastructure was well covered in the speech. I want to say that I was very happy when I noted that this area was given priority with regard to opening up new roads to Sudan and Ethiopia. This also includes the construction of a railway line of modern gauge so that we can access Uganda, the great lakes region as well as Sudan and Ethiopia.

On the issue of *Kazi Kwa Vijana*, I think this is a very good initiative. I want to laud the two principals for introducing it. However, I am concerned that this programme may not have a lot of impact. This programme, in my view, should have been channelled through the constituencies for it to have some impact.

Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker, when you channel this money through the Ministries and with the bureaucracies there, we expect little or no impact. There are so many programmes that have been channeled through the Ministries that are well intentioned but are not working. For example, the Government has provided money for fertilizer and seeds to improve food production among the poor but the procedure used is a big problem. For example, businessmen and women are not ready to tender for the supply of fertilizer and seeds and wait for payment after two or three months. The Minister for Planning, National Development and Vision 2030 should consider channeling this money through constituencies. This is because the Constituencies Development Fund (CDF) has done very well. With only Kshs11 billion per annum a lot of development has been achieved in the constituency. So, we would like to see the *Kazi Kwa Vijana* initiative also creating jobs in the constituencies.

Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker, in the President's Speech, there was the issue of establishing special economic zones in various parts of the country so that we can create jobs for our youth. This is an issue that I laud. The Government should take it very seriously so that we can establish various economic zones throughout the country. This would minimize the problem of all the youth heading to major towns to look for jobs.

The President's Speech was also loaded with so many policy papers or documents that need to come to this House for debate and eventually be made national policies and Acts. I wish to ask the Government to ensure that these policy papers and bills are

brought to the House as soon as possible so that they can be debated and enacted into law. Of special interest, are the policies on land. For example, the National Land Policy is a policy that is long overdue. We have many problems with human-wildlife conflict. It is a major problem. We need to come up with a new wildlife policy and Act so that wildlife management can be done in a modern way.

Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker, there is the issue of policy on science, technology and innovation. We are in the 21st Century where knowledge is the commodity that is driving the economy of the world. This country has no policy on science, technology and innovation. So, we cannot expect to move without such a policy. I hope that this policy will also be brought to this House so that we can debate and pass it.

Other policies that are of national interest that should be fast-tracked to this House include the National Social Protection Bill, National Policy on Old Persons and Ageing, National Policy on Disability and the National Policy on Fire and Disaster Management. The other policy that should be brought to this House is a policy on alcohol. Alcohol is proving to be a major killer of our youth and we must find a way of managing it. So, we need an alcohol policy which will set out better ways of handling the same.

I wish to conclude by noting that we need urgent reforms in the Judiciary and the police. I beg to support the President's Speech.

The Assistant Minister, Ministry of State for Provincial Administration and Internal Security (Mr. Lesrima): Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker, thank you for giving me this opportunity. To begin with, I want to congratulate the Speaker for his landmark ruling which brought back this country from the brink of collapse. That ruling has allowed us to move forward. I hope that our leaders will stop being in a permanent state of campaign. Kenya's leadership appears to be permanently in a campaign mood. After one election, we embark on the next campaign almost immediately. We are always looking for a President or the next leader to begin to deliver. We are permanently in that state and we do not seem to be ready to start working or even to continue where we began.

Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker, I commend the President's Speech on a number of issues raised. One of the issues is that of the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). The issue is very much alive although we say that there has been 90 per cent success. I believe that it is less than that in some areas. What is important is not even the construction of police posts or Administration Police posts but to strive for reconciliation. But you cannot have reconciliation without justice. We need reconciliation between the communities that were affected during the post-election violence.

We must also think about "IDPs" in Marsabit and Samburu West Constituency, which is my constituency. We have people living in huge camps which they created on their own to protect themselves from their neighbours arising out of conflicts with regard to fighting over resources like land. This kind of situation should not be allowed to continue in a modern Kenya. We are paying a lot of attention to IDPs in other parts of the country, whereas we should adopt a sense of equity and also get very much concerned about those marginalized communities that live under great fear.

Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker, we should also check whether the so called cattle-rustling is still the old traditional cattle-rustling. Modern cattle-rustling has become commercial. The raids are not reciprocated, not mutual or traditional. In fact, these days, successful large scale cattle-rustling requires partnership with conflict entrepreneurs.

These are people often not from the affected districts. I must say that, that kind of partnership has the support of key people in the Government. That kind of activity must be investigated because it is giving the Government a very bad name. This morning when we heard of the debate arising out of a Question concerning the raiding of the Samburu cattle in Samburu East Constituency, it came out very clearly that there are some Government officers who are involved in that activity. I think it is wrong to condemn the whole Government when only a few people are involved.

Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker, the other issue that I want to talk about is on the food crisis as His Excellency the President mentioned in his Speech. The steps that he mentioned to be taken are commendable but that problem will not go away as long as we depend on rain-fed agriculture and on one diet called maize. I know we have talked about that subject for very many years but no action has ever been taken to reverse the situation. Many speakers have made contributions and recommended irrigation. We do that year-in, year-out. In fact, we should allocate adequate resources at the onset of rain to desilt two or three dams in every constituency and use modern technology for drip irrigation.

In my constituency, we received 1,000 bales of grass from the Government to feed 200,000 head of cattle. To me, that does not seem to be a viable arrangement; 1,000 bales is only enough to sustain 1,000 cows in one day. We should embark on improving our range management techniques and protecting our environment.

Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker, on the infrastructure, the President talked about modernization. He did not mention many new roads in his Speech. I would have liked to hear from him the progress that has been made on the Rumuruti-Maralal Road, which the Iranians have promised to fund.

Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker, in the current ICT Policy of the Government, Samburu District seems to have been left out of the fiber optic cable project. I mean, the under sea cable which is improving the ICT infrastructure in the country. That is not a very good thing because it will bring further digital divide in the country.

Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker, the President mentioned Vision 2030. I wonder how many of us, even in this House, have studied that document thoroughly. I am aware that Phase I of that program is already out. It is covering the period between 2008 to 2012. This document should be debated so that all of us, in whatever we do in our strategic plans, we incorporate Vision 2030.

Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker, a number of hon. Members have spoken about *Kazi Kwa Vijana*. I support that initiative, but we should not focus only on manual jobs. We should also look at business incubation. I agree with hon. Otichilo that, that initiative should be based at constituency level. That is because the Constituencies Development Fund (CDF) is already visible with the availability of Kshs10 billion annually. If you divide that money and specifically target the youth, we will feel some impact. We should also learn from India to utilize ICT to create jobs and employ youth to do Government jobs such as the jobs available at the Kenya Bureau of Statistics (KBS).

Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker, the final area that I want to touch on is the key policies that His Excellency the President outlined. In total, I think 23 policies were mentioned. The Implementation of 23 policies is a very, very big task, and even for them to pass through this House will take a very long time. I would suggest that the House Business Committee should prioritise those policies. The documents should be released

and the stakeholders should also be involved. In fact, through the various Select Committees of this House, they could tackle a number of those policies so that by the time they come to the House, we can speedily pass them. If necessary, we should even extend the working hours of this House.

Finally, Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker, we also need to provide resources for the implementation of those policies. A very good law, the Forest Act, was passed in 2005. But to operationalise that law has been very, very slow. That is a very good law because it involves communities in the management and sharing of the resources of the forests. A very small budget was provided and we do not hear of any activities taking place in terms of conducting workshops and seminars to speed up the implementation of that law.

With those few remarks, Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker, I beg to support.

Mr. Ruteere: Thank you very much, Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to speak and support the Motion on the President's Speech. I have reasons to believe that the President gave us a very moving Speech. He touched on various issues of concern to our nation which, if implemented according to the way he was talking, our country would move forward.

However, Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker, there are issues that have been dogging our people for quite a long time. The education policy was not mentioned in that Speech and yet, the Education Act has not been revised for quite some time. Actually, right now, the Education Act is outdated. There have been bodies, committees and commissions that are running education and yet, they are not catered for in the Education Act. It is time that the education of this country is taken very, very seriously because some of the problems we are encountering are as a result of our education policy. If we do not look at our education policies properly, the country's youth, who we are preparing for leadership; who we are preparing to take over jobs, will not manage what we want to prepare them for.

Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker, the President spoke very well by saying that the Coalition Government is making good progress in managing the challenges that are facing this country. However, looking at the reality, I think the opposite is true because, one day, we see the Coalition partners eating together, posing for photographs and another time, we see the Coalition partners in public rallies complaining and demanding serious consultations and yet, they come to the public and say: "We are consulting." The message they send to the public is completely opposite of what they want to portray to us when they are working. Like today, we have heard the Prime Minister say that they are consulting and everything is running very well. But in this House, we do not have a Leader of Government Business. This House does not have a Deputy Leader of Government Business because there is a standoff between the Coalition partners! So, to say that we are making progress is a gimmick and I do not understand it! It is time people took action and walked the talk. That is because what they are saying is not true.

Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker, I also think that the environmental degradation that is taking place in our country--- There is destruction of forests, planting the wrong trees at our water catchment areas and watersheds. Eucalyptus trees are now being planted on water tables like Mt. Kenya. They are drying the streams and springs. We are planting them for hydroelectric power generation. It is ironical because when the rivers dry up, then there will be no hydroelectric power to generate! Therefore, we should

have a policy on where eucalyptus trees should be planted. Those planted on river banks, water sheds and all those planted on water tables should be uprooted, harvested and done away with. Even a legislation is necessary to control the growth of eucalyptus trees. We should go back to planting indigenous trees that will bring the water levels up. That is something that I cannot understand. I come from an area where there were forests. Those forests are no longer there. The people who are supposed to guard the forests are the people who are destroying them. I have an example of the forest guards. The Imenti North Forest is currently under a serious threat. We have talked about it but no action is being taken.

Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker, the *Kazi kwa Vijana* programme should be clear. We should know who it is targeting. This money should be channeled to the constituencies like the CDF. The CDF should be increased. The kind of development that is taking place through the CDF is wonderful. If the CDF is doubled, I am sure the pace of development in this country will be such that people will not understand what has happened to Kenya. Kenya will be transformed in terms of development.

I also believe that we should have an agenda of respecting our institutions and authority. There is no need of public showing off between the various institutions that we have. We have the institution of the presidency that is putting the country together. It is an institution that unites us and yet at times, we do not give it the respect that it deserves. We have other institutions like the Prime Minister and Vice-President. We have created these institutions. I think we need to give them the respect that they deserve. They should also work in harmony. None should claim to be above another one. If both the Vice-President and the Prime Minister work in isolation, then they are not worth being in those institutions.

Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker, I feel we should have a formula of distributing the resources and job opportunities that we have in this country. This is because we are creating tension among the youth. We find that wherever there are Ministers, it is their tribesmen that fill those Ministries. What about areas which do not have a Minister? What will happen? I feel that opportunities should be given to all, regardless of whether there are Ministers or no Ministers in those areas. This will make the youth feel that they are being looked after by the Government.

Currently, our youth are becoming irritated by the way people are being employed. Unless people cough some money or corrupt their way, they cannot get employment. This is a very serious issue. The more these people are dissatisfied, we are calling for a revolution which will not help us in any way.

Free primary and secondary education has enabled many children to go to schools. However, we do not have enough teachers in primary schools. Are pupils getting educated anyway, when we have eight classes with two teachers or 14 classes with three teachers? What are we saying really? We are taking those children there, just to grow in those schools, but they are not getting education. They should have the opportunity to be educated. We should not cheat ourselves that just because somebody has gone to school and he is sitting in a classroom, he is getting education. Education does not mean sitting in a classroom. Education is getting a teacher who will give instructions and the child will start to learn.

On business, these enterprises, the various funds that we have such as women fund and youth fund, need to be revived, so that they will benefit the people they are

intended to benefit. They should not benefit the banks or other financial institutions through which the money is channeled. Currently, it is those institutions through which the money is channeled, that benefit and not the beneficiary it is meant to help.

Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker, on land policy, we are yet to know if there will be land enough to settle all our people. We should have a policy where some people can live in urban areas and where the farms can be let to feed the nation. Unless we have that policy, even if we continue sub-dividing the small pieces of land, a time will come when we will have no land to sub-divide. The time has come when we should take people to these areas.

I support the Motion.

The Minister of State for Planning, National Development and Vision 2030
(Mr. Oparanya): Thank you, Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker for giving me this chance to contribute to this important Motion.

From the outset, I want to support the Motion. The President issued a very comprehensive statement. It touched on many issues that affect the common *mwananchi*. If those issues that the President mentioned in his Speech are implemented, they will definitely affect the welfare of the common *mwananchi* in this country.

However, being the MP for Butere Constituency in Western Province, I find that there were shortcomings within the Presidential Speech. One area that the President has addressed in his previous speeches to this Parliament that was not addressed during this time is the sugarcane industry. About six million Kenyans depend on sugarcane directly or indirectly, especially those people who reside in western Kenya. This industry has been there. You will remember we had the Ramisi Sugar Company from the 1920s. It collapsed.

In Western Province, Mumias Sugar Company was established in 1976. During those early years of 1976 up to the early 1980s, our fathers then when they were growing sugarcane, used to get a lot of money. In fact, the first time my father got sugarcane money, he traveled to Mombasa for a holiday. Nowadays, we cannot hear of that because this industry has been neglected.

I would have expected the President to raise issues about the sugar industry. We have all along talked of excess debts in this industry. In the previous Parliament, we said that the debt within the sugar industry is over Kshs20 billion with interest application being over Kshs25 billion by now. We have talked about it over and over again.

All these sugar companies are in one way or another owned by the Government. The Government has about 20 percent shares in Kimilili Sugar Company and Mumias Sugar Company. Nzoia Sugar Company is a Government sugar company. Who is to sort out the problems in the sugar industry? It is the Government. So, I would have expected His Excellency the President to be generous to the people of Western Province and address the problems that we face in the sugar industry.

Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker, the industry has very outdated technology. We have outgrower organizations that do not work but they are still in place because of structural problems. Regarding the prices of sugarcane to farmers, once it was Kshs3,000, it went down to Kshs2,200 and now it has moved up to Kshs2,500.

Last week, I had a chance of being in Cuba where they grow sugarcane. Farmers in that country get an average of about Kshs10,000 per tonne while here in Kenya, we get Kshs2,500 per tonne.

Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker, in the year 2007, when the President was going round, it was mentioned that sugar-cane prices were going up. The other day, when he was in Western Province, he said that it was up to the companies themselves to set the price. This is something that the Government has to address to save the lives of people in Western Province. People in that province are even unable to raise school fees for their children because of problems in the sugar industry.

There are measures that the Government has to take to make sure that the situation is addressed. We have to ensure that the debts are written off, we have modern technology and that, within the industry, there is diversification, so that we do not depend on sugar-cane only.

There are safeguard measures, which we have been given and which have been renewed severally. We have now been given a deadline up to March, 2012 to make sure that we sort out the problems affecting our sugar-cane industry, but nothing is happening. Already we are heading to the end of the year.

Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker, coming to the issue of *Kazi kwa Vijana* programme---

Mr. Baiya: On a point of order, Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker. The Minister is urging the Government to do certain things. Is it in order, when he is actually part of that Government, for him to come and urge the Government to do the things he has mentioned?

The Minister for Planning, National Development and Vision 2030 (Mr. Oparanya): Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker, when I stood here, I said clearly that I wanted to talk as the Member of Parliament for Butere Constituency. At that time, I was speaking as the Member of Parliament for Butere Constituency. As I stand here, I will continue to speak as the Member of Parliament for Butere Constituency.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Prof. Kamar): That is allowed, as long as you do not contradict yourself.

Please, proceed.

The Minister for Planning, National Development and Vision 2030 (Mr. Oparanya): Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker, coming to the issue of *Kazi kwa Vijana* programme, I appreciate that this was a very good initiative, which I supported even in the Cabinet. This is a good initiative through which the Government has committed itself to spend Kshs15 billion.

I would agree with the hon. Members who have said that programme must go to the constituencies. This is what I said, and what I will keep on saying, whether I am a Minister or the Member of Parliament for Butere Constituency. With Kshs15 billion, each constituency is likely to get about Kshs75 million. If each constituency gets Kshs75 million, we will employ so many youths, instead of channeling this money through a few Ministries.

Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker, my own Ministry has been allocated Kshs43 million to monitor the implementation of this project. The correct route is to have this money utilized through the constituencies. I will keep on saying so.

Coming to Constituencies Development Fund (CDF) projects, I appreciate the fact that the CDF has done very well in this country. As you know, hon. Members, through Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker, there are some development partners who do not like the CDF. As Members of Parliament, let us assert our authority to make sure

that the CDF works. The CDF has been working very well. In fact, it is the only devolved fund that is working in this country.

I will be with this House to propose that, in the coming Budget, we increase the CDF allocation from 2.5 per cent to 5 per cent, because the centralized system that we have has not helped this country to grow. The only option is to have the CDF money increased, so that we can have more development at the grassroots level.

Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker, it is a shame that after 45 years of Independence, we still have a shortage of food. Let me assure you, as the Minister in charge of planning, that we have very good plans on our shelves. The problem we have in this country is that nobody follows those plans. I wonder why we have a Ministry to do planning when nobody implements those plans. We now have Vision 2030, which is a very good document.

The document came out following wide consultations right from the grassroots level to the national level. Vision 2030 is supposed to address issues of unemployment, poverty as well as the issue of uneven distribution of resources. However, what comes out is that when you ask a body to implement the same Vision – which if implemented will take us to the next level – you are told that there is no money.

With those few remarks, I support the Motion.

Mr. Baiya: Thank you, Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker. I would like to contribute to the debate on the Presidential Address. The Address by the President was quite elaborate, very consistent and, particularly focused on Vision 2030.

The President expounded, quite consistently, the various arms around Vision 2030 and the biggest projects that the Government has earmarked for financing under the Vision 2030. Even looking at what the Government has achieved so far, particularly since the former NARC Government came to power, and especially in the area of infrastructure, nobody can stand firmly to contradict the achievement that this Government has realized.

Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker, if these efforts had been sustained over the immediate past years, there is no doubt that this country would have achieved much more in its development efforts. Nonetheless, it is also true that since the last election in the year 2007, the country has been faced with serious challenges.

Of particular concern is the political instability that is evident in the paralysed Government. What we are seeing, even after the formation of the Grand Coalition Government, is that rather than work together, the two arms of the Government are pulling in different directions. Much as they try to make it appear to Kenyans that, that scenario has no impact on development efforts, Kenyans are not convinced. What a paralysed government can achieve is far much less. If the energy that is being wasted through the prevailing rivalry in the Grand Coalition Government could be used wisely, the Government would achieve a lot more in terms of development.

Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker, these challenges are also coming at a time when the challenges to development are becoming even more acute, particularly from the world economic crisis. Looking at the challenges that have affected our country, we have been told, time and again, that the performance of the tourism industry has dramatically gone down; there has been a decline of tourism in the country.

Export crops such as tea, coffee and horticulture are also bound to be adversely affected as the export market becomes affected. Even remittances from Kenyans in the

diaspora have also been adversely affected. These results have nothing to do with local development. This is all about the international economic crisis. It is amidst these challenges and threats that the Government will find it extremely difficult to deliver what it could have delivered before the crisis came up. That is why it is particularly important for all the leaders in this country to pull together. Literally, the country will go through this crisis.

Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker, the people who have tried to understand the on-going economic crisis at the international level will tell you that Governments, world over, are unwilling to discuss what is going on. They are not coming out openly. It is a well-known fact that historically, the world experienced this kind of challenge in 1920. That led to an economic depression in 1930 until the end of the Second World War when economic stability was imposed on the world. The current economic crisis represents a breakdown of the post-Second World War stability. The economic instability will not be resolved within a year or two. That is why leaders need to mobilise---

When the Budget was read last year, I remember we told the Minister for Finance at that time that the prognosis on the international scene about the Budget overview was too optimistic. This was basically because its focus on the international scenario was very local. The same thing is happening now. We have now seen the Minister for Finance come before this House to seek for the approval of Supplementary Estimates required to curtail the over projected performance of the economy. The biggest threat to our economy will, therefore, be the international and local instability.

Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker, the Vision 2030, and I am happy the Minister for Planning, National Development and Vision 2030 is here, was also over-optimistic because it did not focus on the international instability that will affect the country. The Address given to this House by the President does not factor all that, and yet this is the cornerstone of our problem. The planners in the Government should re-look at the strategy to enable us cope with the economic crisis. I am certain that in the absence of such a strategy, we shall be reacting on a crisis basis. For instance, the Ministry of Education has this time round remitted the bursaries quite late. Even the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) money has also been remitted quite late. This is a reflection of the challenges that the Government is experiencing even with the anticipated revenue collection by the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA). If we do not factor in this problem, then the discrepancy between what the Government will do and what it will deliver will widen. If Kenyans will not be told clearly what is going, they will speculate a lot. This will lead to conflicts between the leaders and Kenyans.

With those few remarks, I beg to support this Motion.

The Minister for Information and Communications (Mr. Poghio): Thank you very much, Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker, for giving me this opportunity. It is always refreshing to have Madam Speaker in the Chair. Sometimes you have to pardon us when we address you as "Mr. Speaker" because we are not yet accustomed to this. I also congratulate you for the live coverage that we have and enjoy in this House. It has really brought fresh impetus to the debate in this House. This is because hon. Members know that they are being heard and watched by their constituents. The challenge my Ministry faces is to make sure that every constituency is covered by television and radio signals. This will enable all constituents to follow their respective Members of Parliament.

Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker, sometimes it takes time for us to get used to the fact that live coverage is not an opportunity to play to the national gallery. We still have to contain ourselves to the precincts of this House in terms of how we address ourselves to issues. Sometimes I feel like the Chair is still in transition from full debate to basically being a Chair. I believe that time will come when we will definitely realise that we are not addressing for the purpose of impressing but we address to be sure that it is contained within our own Standing Orders and Constitution.

I want to focus on three things. One of them, unfortunately, has been repeated over and over. This has to do with the unity of the Coalition Government. I did not intend to repeat this except that it is coming up now and then. The Grand Coalition Government is not living the unity that is supposed to be. We speak unity when it is convenient for us and speak disunity when it is not convenient for us. I believe this addresses the root of our manners and best behaviour. William Wilberforce, a Member of Parliament like you and myself, early last century was known for two things. We remember him for the abolition of slavery and slave trade. However, there is something else that he set out to do that we must remember. He said that the second objective he had was to reform manners.

I believe that it is about time we went ahead to reform manners and mannerisms of leaders so that it is not convenient to do one thing or say one thing when you want it for yourself and then say another thing altogether when it is not convenient for you. I think we must state whether we are for unity or not. I believe this confusion has put the country in such a state of expectation that even when the Speaker was going to rule on who will be the Leader of Government Business, the whole country came to a stand still. This is because Kenyans are not sure whether we are for unity or disunity. I believe that the manners of leaders should be addressed. That is the way we stand to be counted.

Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker, it is not correct for hon. Members to read this Motion and begin to criticize it. This is because the Motion before the House states:-

“THAT, the thanks of this House be recorded for the exposition of public policy contained in His Excellency’s Presidential Address from the Chair.”

Basically, what the Government does is to set a menu of policies for us to debate. It is, therefore, not proper for me to come and say, “The President fell short”. The policies contained in the Speech have been set for you to address. So, do your research and address yourself to those policies. In fact, I may add that because of the mannerisms that I have talked about, even Cabinet Ministers criticize the President’s Speech. Where on earth have you heard that? Where on earth can a Minister criticize the President’s Speech? It is not allowed. That is why I am talking about our manners. We must basically change. If I am not satisfied with what the President has said, I cannot, as a Minister, stand here and say it was wrong or it fell short. I cannot do that! This is what this Government must come out of. The people out there looking at us want us to be respected. We must bring forth the best out of ourselves. When people just stand for the sake of it and say they criticize, what are they criticizing? In the last State Opening, a particular set of policies was set for us to debate. This time they cannot repeat what was there at that time. The Government has chosen a few that we debate and, therefore, let us debate those. Our thanks must be recorded that the President in his Speech gave us policies and priorities that the Government has to debate. That is the way this used to be done.

Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker, I wanted to talk on three things. One is that unity. I believe that we must make it clear that when I stand to speak, I speak for unity and at no one time should I be speaking for disunity. That is what people want us to talk about. I am not a member of this sector or faction of the unity. I am in the Cabinet of the Grand Coalition and I believe that, that ought to be the manners that we portray to Kenyans.

Secondly, I would like to talk about the e-readiness and that touches on my docket in the Government. I would like to talk about e-readiness and innovation and just to assure the state that part of the policy of the Government is to make sure that this country is provided with enough ICT capacity and infrastructure for ICT or e-readiness so that when you hear about the fibre optic cables in the country and when you hear about our national backbone, it means that you have seen people digging and putting cables all over this country to prepare us for take off in this sector. We are a hub in this region. We are a regional hub in that matter. To add to that, within the month of June, we will be expecting the landing of what we were calling the submarine cables so that they take what we have connected internally to the international arena. So, we will be connected to the international arena with increased broadband capacity. Consequently, speeds for Internet will increase and the cost of doing business in the ICT sector is going to be so low. This is something that we should be talking about instead of haggling over things that simply bring out the worst of our behaviour. We should be appreciating the things that the Government is doing, and that is what was contained in the Presidential Address.

Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker, I want to talk about insecurity, and in connection with that, talk about the tampering along the common borders between us and our neighbouring countries. It is very disheartening when we do not strengthen and encourage our law enforcement forces, the police and others who are doing their duties. We cannot afford to live in a country where we discredit our own police force and yet we have no other person who can do that duty. We should strengthen and encourage our law enforcement agencies. If we encourage hooliganism, a situation where the police are afraid to deal with crime, where are we going to be? I believe that we must, therefore, --- No one country that I know of would allow their police to be ridiculed or pushed to the limit because I think we have pushed the police too far. This is again part of our mannerisms. A leader speaks and totally discredits and tears into the Police Force.

Now, when you do that, what alternative do you want to bring in? After making political mileage out of it, what can you do for our security? If we keep the police out of our neighbourhood because you have said so much against them, who is going to take care of us?

Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker, the authority of the police is supposed to be such that when you are in traffic, a policeman only has to lift his hand and you stop. If you tamper with that authority, can you imagine how we would run into each other in traffic? I mean, many of these things should not be politicized.

I beg to support.

Mr. Chepkitony: Thank you very much Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker, for giving me an opportunity to contribute in support of this Motion.

Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker, I would like to commend the President's Speech. He expounded the policies the Government will undertake. The President mentioned various challenges which faced this country last year. He mentioned what the

Government has done, particularly on the issue of the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). We still have IDP camps dotted across the country, particularly in the Rift Valley Province, which are an eyesore. I am hoping that with the passing of the Supplementary Estimates, these people are going to be resettled so that this eyesore ends. These people are going to get their rightful allocations of money so that they can go back to their farms and start farming.

Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker, one of the challenges the President mentioned is the food crisis, which faced this country last year. This was as a result of rainfall failure. That challenge is still with us. This year, the rains are even worse than last year. The rainfall that is being received in the food producing areas is not very promising. Unless this changes, I think we are going to be faced with another food shortage this year. I am not praying for that to happen but the Government must be prepared to watch the situation as it unfolds. The Government should take action early enough and import food.

Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker, I must commend the Government for importing cheaper fertilizers. Farmers have been very happy. They got the fertilizers on time and many of them have planted. They are looking forward to getting sufficient rains. Land preparation went on well, planting went on well, but it is only the rains that may fail them. We are praying and hoping that the rains will come before it is too late.

Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker, the cost of crop production is still so high. Chemicals and fuel prices are also still high. There is also lack of credit to farmers. The Government promised that it would increase its allocation to the agricultural sector. They said that they would in the coming Budget double the allocation of funds from last year's 4 percent to 8 percent of the total Budget. I hope this is going to be done so that more resources are allocated to the agricultural sector. This would mean that the agricultural sector would have more money to give to the Agricultural Finance Corporation (AFC) for on-lending to farmers in all sectors. This should not only be done in food production sectors but also in tea, coffee and livestock sectors. Generally our agricultural production has declined over the years, because of lack of support in the form of credit.

Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker, our agricultural institutions need to be revived. I did not hear anyone talk about the revival of agricultural institutions like the Kenya Farmers Association (KFA) which used to play a very important role in the provision of farm inputs. The KFA had branches all over the country and they are still there. It still has these branches and personnel. It only needs to be revived.

The National Cereals and Produce Board plays a very important. We need to have depots to distribute food and fertilizers. Although the fertilizer was distributed, due to lack of depots all over the country, farmers had to travel long distances to get the inputs. For the first time this Government recognized that we need to construct more dams. The President mentioned that six big dams would be constructed. That is a commendable effort by the State because this is a water deficit country. We need to develop water and tap the run-offs when it rains, so that we can use this water during the dry seasons. We should continue to build more dams.

Nobody is mentioning about the water problems facing Nairobi. About a year ago, there was a serious water shortage. Nobody has ever mentioned about it. It is high time a second Ndakaiine Dam was built wherever it would be, so that we have adequate water for residents of this City. The City is expanding very fast, but the provision of

water is not there. People are buying water. They move around with containers or tankers to sell water. People make booming business in Nairobi because of shortage of water. However, nobody is talking about it and we do not see any action from the Government. I hope the Government will seriously address this issue.

We also have an energy crisis, which has been there with us. This has brought about the high cost of fuel. This scarcity of fuel has translated into high inflation. The cost of transport is based on the cost of energy. The manufacturing sector relies on energy. It relies on power generation, which uses fuel. The Government had made the right decision to regulate the price of fuel, but later on, it backtracked. I hope the Government will control the price of fuel because traders will never be fair to consumers.

Another issue that the President mentioned is that Kenya is in competition with other countries in terms of investments and tourism markets. We need to encourage investments. We also need to concentrate more on development issues such as investments rather than politics. Bad politics will not encourage investors to come here. Sometimes, we scare investors by what we utter or do. It would reflect that the country is not stable. Any businessman who wants to invest his money in any country will take it where he is certain that he will make money. So, we should come up with good policies that will encourage investors to invest here. We should discourage corruption. We should encourage investments because it will assist to create many employment opportunities in this country. The poverty level is rising. The development of human resources, as the President said, is being frustrated by lack of jobs. We have well trained personnel, but they have no work to do. We need to develop the country and create more investment opportunities in this country.

Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker, I want to talk about the health sector. The support to this sector should be extended. There is lack of personnel in various health facilities such as dispensaries, health centres, public hospitals, and even district hospitals. Hospitals, which are far from urban centres do not have doctors. Some of the dispensaries get drugs but they do not have staff. Some have been closed down due to lack of personnel. The Government should address this issue and employ sufficient staff.

I want to talk about the CDF. As it has been said, everybody has been praising the CDF because this is the only devolved fund to districts and constituencies. We have seen the impact of this Fund. I would like to urge the Government and the Ministry in charge to ensure that the funds are disbursed on time. This year, we have not received all the funds. We have only received about a quarter. I would like to urge the Ministry concerned to ensure that the CDF money is disbursed.

I beg to support.

Hon. Members: Be brief!

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Prof. Kamar): Prof. Olweny! I am requested that you use little time so that you can accommodate your colleagues.

The Assistant Minister for Education (Prof. Olweny): Thank you, Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker. I have been trying my luck for the last three sittings. However, thanks for giving me the opportunity to contribute to the Motion on the Presidential Address. When the President addressed this House, he talked about the Migingo issue and said that Kenya was using all kinds of diplomatic efforts to solve the problem between Uganda and us. I am of the opinion that we have been too diplomatic on the matter. If you go to your home and find that someone has kicked out your wife and

children and taken away your animals, you do not tell that person, please, let us sit down and talk about it. Let us be diplomatic. We do not do that. If it were I, I would take the nearest weapon and handle the matter before I move on to diplomacy. As we are taking the diplomatic approach in this case, the Ugandans, it was reported that they uprooted beacons in the area. While that is happening, River Omo has been diverted and is now threatening Lake Turkana. Lake Turkana with time may dry out because the Ethiopians have diverted the river. I remember sometime in the 1970s when the former dictator of Uganda, Mr. Amin, threatened us by saying that the western part of Kenya belonged to Uganda. Mr. Kenyatta came out in his true colours and told Amin that if at all they were going to meet, they would meet in Uganda and not in Kenya. That sorted out the matter, once and for all. This issue of diplomacy which Ugandans---They started with a few policemen, then the soldiers, and then they hosted their flag. We are still insisting that we use diplomacy. These people are warmongers. Warmongers only understand one language, that is war, and nothing else, not diplomacy. The other day, they said that they would remove their flag but they still have their soldiers there. What the hell are Ugandan soldiers doing in Kenya? That suggests that we are weak.

It is unfortunate that our soldiers have not been tested anyway, apart from a few of them claiming to have been peacekeepers outside this country. They spend too much time in the barracks. They should have gone out to protect us. If we had achieved constitutional reforms for this country, the Judiciary, the police force and other things would be taken care of. However, we blame the Ninth Parliament for not doing enough for this country. The Ninth Parliament had all the opportunities to reform the constitution. It had all the opportunity to bring about all the reforms we are talking about.

In fact, the problem we had after the last elections is because of the last Parliament. The last Government gave us a lopsided Electoral Commission of Kenya (ECK) which presided over an election that never was. If at all the last Parliament did its work and gave us the Constitution that Kenyans wanted, I do not think that Kenya would be having problems today. I do not think that we would be having these squabbles between two Principals, where both are trying to outdo each other. If you compare the last Parliament with Moi's Regime, you will find that Mr. Moi brought in Section 2A so that he would control Kenyans. It is the same Mr. Moi that gave us the Inter-Party Parliamentary Group (IPPG) which is the document that gave us an ECK that handled elections in 2002. That was one of the best elections that we have ever had in this country. Mr. Moi should be praised for that. When it came to the elections of 2007, we let Kenyans go to war, killing one another. So, Mr. Moi in that case was a wonderful man for this country. I hope that the non-reformists that we have amongst us here today--- There are non-reformists amongst us who do not want a new Constitution and when you talk of reforms in the judiciary, it is as if you are removing their homes or robbing them of their property. It is very unfortunate.

Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker, let me make a few remarks about food production in this country. It is unfortunate that Kenya should have problems when it comes to food. Some years back, Kenya was self-sufficient, particularly, with regard to a number of food commodities. We were producing enough wheat, maize and sugar. We had enough. Then somewhere along the line, Kenya is not having enough food yet we have enough land. When we were producing enough food, we had quite a number of large-scale farms in this country. All those farms were sub-divided into small *shambas*

because every Kenyan wants a piece of land. Large-scale farms are the best way to go if you want to produce enough food. For you to produce enough food, you need mechanized agriculture. You cannot mechanize farming if you have a small farm like a quarter of an acre. On that quarter acre of land you plant a few crops like potatoes and on the rest of piece of land, there is a huge stone. That means that we have mismanaged our land and environment. So, how can we get enough food? In this country, we must turn around and think of---

Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker (Prof. Kamar): Your time is up!

The Assistant Minister for Education (Prof. Olweny): You are denying me my minute! Anyway, I support.

Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker (Prof. Kamar): Hon. Members, it is now time for the Vice-President and Minister for Home Affairs to respond.

The Vice-President and Minister for Home Affairs (Mr. Musyoka): Thank you, Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker. With your permission, I propose to donate four minutes of my time to the honorable Member for Ndaragwa, hon. Kioni, and another two minutes to the Member for Kangundo. I gather they have been standing for the last four consecutive days without catching Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker's eye.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Prof. Kamar): Thank you.

Proceed, hon. Kioni!

Mr. Kioni: Thank you, Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker. I want to thank the Vice-President for giving me that opportunity.

Very quickly, Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker, I want to say that the Presidential Speech was very comprehensive. It actually covered issues that, if we allow ourselves time in this House, we would have handled, perhaps, almost 40 per cent of the problems that are affecting this country.

But it is crucial, Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker, that as leaders, we realize that what we have concentrated on in the last one year are statements that are not useful to this country. We are just playing to the galleries permanently whenever we come to make our contributions here. The best that we have done is to show disrespect to our institutions. We have gone on air to insult one another – leaders insulting other leaders – and that is not useful at all! We are not going to achieve all the things that were laid out by the Presidential Speech if we do not show a lot of respect and restraint in whatever it is that we are saying. It is important to know that leaders are not just the Members of Parliament here. Leaders are even those--- For example, we had the opportunity of attending Labour Day and we saw young people throwing stones. Those stones were thrown because the leaders may have encouraged them to be thrown by the many statements that we made that were fairly irresponsible.

(Applause)

So, Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker, it is important to know that we cannot take the Floor of this House or any other platform, issue statements that are not useful to this nation and think that anything that was said by the President will be achieved. It is only this morning when somebody stood up and said that this is a Government made up of murderers and robbers! Another person came up and said that the Government has killed! Those statements are not going to help any Kenyans here! We would rather wake

up to the reality that what we have done to ourselves as leaders is actually to erode the respect that we used to have and, without addressing our behavior as leaders when we are in this House or when we are addressing political rallies out there, all those wonderful things that were said by the President will not be achieved. If we cannot show that there are things that we can say out in the public and others must be sorted out within the boardrooms, we are not going to achieve anything.

Thank you, Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker.

I beg to support.

Mr. Muthama: Thank you, Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker. I have only two minutes and I want to contribute to this Presidential Speech. First of all, I want to congratulate the President for the wonderful speech that he made.

Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker, my heart is very heavy when I hear about Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). A free country like Kenya should not have Kenyans sleeping outside and suffering while leaders are there. We seem not to be acting with the fastest speed possible to settle them. It is my conviction that, unless we settle other Kenyans and make them comfortable, I do not think, truly, we are playing our role as leaders.

The other issue, Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker, is to do with the drought and famine in this country. Kenyans are suffering. Maize has been lost. Poisonous maize has been brought into the country and we are still talking about eliminating corruption and no one person, ever, has been charged with that offence. The people are known, statements have been issued, we are debating the issues here and things just remain the same.

Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker, I want to encourage the Government, truly, to build dams so that Kenyans can be able to irrigate and produce food. That is because there will be no meaningful development in this country if Kenyans tummies are empty. We have to start by feeding them properly, then we go to education, touch on medication and other things will follow later. Thank you, Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker.

I beg to support.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Prof. Kamar): Mr. Vice-President?

The Vice-President and Minister for Home Affairs (Mr. Musyoka): Thank you, Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker. In further exercise of my rights under Standing Order No.74, I would like to donate a further two minutes to the Minister for Special Programs, who has ably lobbied me to speak on IDPs.

The Minister of State for Special Programmes (Dr. Shaban): Ahsante sana Madamu Naibu Spika wa Muda. Kwanza, ningependa kumshukuru Makamu wa Rais kwa kunipa nafasi hii kwa ukarimu wake. Ahsante sana.

Swala la waliofurushwa makwao, kulingana na Hotuba tuliyopatiwa na Rais Mwai Kibaki wakati wa ufunguzi wa Bunge hili, nina furaha kuwa Serikali imechukua mstari wa mbele. Hata Umoja wa Mataifa umeamini kwamba Serikali ya Kenya imeweza kufanya kazi kiasi fulani mpaka saa hizi.

Bi Naibu Spika wa Muda, Serikali imeendelea kutenga pesa za kuwapatia makao mapya wale waliofurushwa makwao wakati kulipokuwa na matatizo. Ninampongeza Rais kwa kulizungumzia jambo hii kwa kirefu sana.

Pili, maswala ya kutegemea mvua ili tuweze kupata chakula; sasa hivi Serikali imechukuwa jukumu na kusema kuwa tuwachane na mambo ya kutegemea mvua kwa

sababu mvua imepungua hapa nchini. Kwa muda wa miaka miwili, tumekuwa tukiendelea kuteseka. Kwa hivyo, ninampongeza Rais kwa kuhakikisha kuwa Serikali yake imetenga pesa za kunyunyuzia mashamba ili watu wapate chakula pahali popote walipo.

Janga la njaa limetukabili kwa wakati huu, na vile vile, pia tumetegemea mvua itakuwa ya kutosha. Lakini mvua inaonekana imekuwa chache. Wakulima kila mahali wamekuwa wakihangaika.

Ningependa kumpongeza Rais kwa kusema kuwa Serikali yake itawasaidia wakulima kwa mbegu, mbolea na kadhalika. Ningependa kuwaomba Wakenya, hasa Waheshimiwa Wabunge, kushikana na Wizara ya Kilimo ili tuweze kuzungumza na wananchi wote ili tuimarisha kilimo hapa nchini.

Wakati wa kupiga midomo na madebe umekwisha. Sasa hivi Wakenya wanataka kuona Bunge hili likileta mabadiliko kwa maisha yao.

Asante sana, Bi Naibu Spika wa Muda.

The Vice-President and Minister for Home Affairs (Mr. Musyoka): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Please, allow me to thank the more than 40 MPs who have contributed to this Motion dealing with the exposition of public policy contained in His Excellency the President's Address when he opened the Third Session of the Tenth Parliament.

A lot of contributions have really highlighted the plight of Kenyans who are living as refugees in their own country. I gave you the example the other day of people in Ol Kalou in one little settlement hosting over 17,000 Kenyans living in conditions that are clearly unhygienic. Until we are able to give decent quality life to those among our people who are living as refugees, we cannot, to that extent, claim to be truly doing well.

On the other hand, MPs have really dwelt at length on the question of *Kazi kwa Vijana*. I think it is a wonderful programme that the President and the Prime Minister were able to initiate. I was able to join them on that particular day when we attempted to dig a dam in Kajiado and went to clean the Yatta Canal. But I think this Yatta Farrow is overworked because whatever people want to do, they want to use it. This was put up by Mau Mau freedom fighters, so many years ago. Since then, we have never been able to do one inch of a canal. This is time to be serious about irrigation. Without irrigation, we cannot feed our people for years to come and yet we over rely on rain-fed agriculture. Right now, we are thankful to God that it is raining in the Rift Valley, which is the bread basket.

I can see hon. Kiuna here from Molo. I hope they are busy planting potatoes and food that we can, from my constituency, come and try to buy. We also want to have capacity right across the country where Kenyans can grow their own food through irrigation.

Therefore, the important thing is to, really, go for irrigation. I want to suggest that if every Member of Parliament could have an irrigation scheme in his or her own constituency, we would be able to feed our people and get rid of the shame that has become our lot, year in, year out.

Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker, I know that the President spoke at length about the effects of the current global financial crisis. The worst is not here with us yet. I think we need to belt up as Kenyans, tell the people the truth – that we are going to face greater challenges, although they are beginning to see some light at the end of the tunnel, since it was started in the United States of America and parts of Europe.

The effect of that crisis is beginning to be felt by having fewer arrivals in terms of tourism and getting other local problems that were not there before this crisis began. So, let us tell our people the truth – that the situation is likely to get worse before it gets better.

Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker, His Excellency the President talked about looking for alternative sources of energy. If the long rains do not do as well as is apparently the case, we can imagine the water levels in Masing Dam and other dams coming down. It will become difficult when the Capital City of Nairobi, and other cities, have to face electricity rationing; hon. Chepkitony was arguing about water rationing even in the City itself.

The moment we begin to ration electric power at a time when we can do with a lot more power generation, this will have the gross effect of affecting our economy negatively.

Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker, we have spent some very good time listening to wonderful contributions by Members of Parliament. I have actually been looking at all the contributions, with some not being very clear on the challenges that face us, but everybody has the feeling that all has not been well.

You saw today, for the first time since history began, the Prime Minister taking the Floor, in accordance with the revised Standing Orders, and being able to address the country and the challenges that hon. Members had to put to him. This is a new one. This is the new Kenya that we are talking about – where we are going to be absolutely transparent in the way we conduct business.

The reform agenda was clearly elaborated by the President in his contribution when he opened this august House. Therefore, let us help him. I remember, for instance, he said that we are going to have to do some supplementary business, because we have to import food in the short-term.

In fact, the figure he quoted was about Kshs8.5 billion that we require in order to import food immediately. He felt that we should support that effort in the Supplementary Estimates. I am happy that this House has already met His Excellency the President halfway by approving the Supplementary Estimates ahead of the main Budget in June.

Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker, I think we are all set. Hon. Members have spoken very clearly on the need to have a new Constitution. I want to congratulate the new Minister for Justice, National Cohesion and Constitutional Affairs, Mr. M. Kilonzo, and wish him well. It is good that he said he is going to consult even his predecessors – Ms. Karua and Mr. Murungi.

He may not have to look as far back as hon. Charles Njonjo, because I heard him look at the list of his predecessors, including the distinguished son of this soil, the late Tom Joseph Mboya, who were there before him. I think the Minister is energized, and we all have to realize that it cannot be Mr. M. Kilonzo alone. It has got to be all of us.

I applaud the work of the Parliamentary Committee, under the able Chairmanship of Mr. Abdulkadir and his Deputy Chairman, Mr. Ababu Namwamba, who are trying to fast-track the formation of those institutions that we need to put in place, namely, the Interim Independent Electoral Commission (IIEC), the Independent Boundaries Review Commission (IBRC) and the independent court that is supposed to arbitrate in case of difficulties arising.

Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker, as I congratulate Mr. M. Kilonzo, I want to also congratulate Mr. Githae for joining the Cabinet, and Assistant Minister, Mr. Nguyai, on his appointment. Wherever we find ourselves able to serve this nation, let us do so with distinction.

I want to join the people of Shinyalu in mourning the departure of their Member of Parliament, who passed on so shortly after they brought him to this august House, obviously with very high hopes. We wish them fortitude at this time of mourning. Obviously, the country is standing together with them.

Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker, let also appreciate the challenges that the President threw at us. He said:-

“Mr. Speaker, as can be seen, I am confident that the Grand Coalition Government is making good progress in managing the challenges facing our nation. The Government has the necessary capacity to lead Kenyans out of the current situation. We have the political will---”

We have the political will and the social economic direction as articulated in our Vision 2030. However, I urge Kenyans to spend more time and energy on economic and social development issues than non-productive politics. Hon. Members have expressed themselves a lot on this matter. We spend a lot of time fighting each other and spreading despondency, fear and hopelessness to our people. That is why I want to say, as I have always said, that it is time to give Kenyans hope.

Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker, a lot of work is going on in this country. I was very happy listening to Mr. Poghio today. In fact, I clapped for him because if by June, 2009, this country will be connected to the fibre optic cable, it will be very easy to do business from this country. That is the way forward.

The Rural Electrification Programme and other things are under way. We also know that there are challenges, for example, insecurity that many parts of this country are facing. We also know that there are challenges with regard to the integrity of our borders. Even as we deal with some of these delicate matters, I disagree with those colleagues who say that we can call our neighbouring countries “war mongers”. Even our own Standing Orders forbid us from doing that. The future of this country lies in regional integration and looking for greater markets for our own products. The East African market is a valued market.

Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker, I remember those days you and I were Members of the East African Legislative Assembly. You know how much we fought, for instance, to get Kisumu to be the headquarters of the Lake Victoria Development Authority. When I made my opening statement in Arusha, I knew Uganda wanted to host the headquarters of the secretariat of the Lake Victoria Development Authority. Tanzania joined us and our friends in Uganda eventually gave in. Today, Kisumu is host to the Lake Victoria Development Authority. Let us also recognise this development and work towards greater integration even as Burundi and Rwanda join this market.

I look forward to the time when we will have the first President addressing this Parliament. My own suspicion is that it is likely to be President Kagame. I do not want to jump the gun if he comes here in the next few days. We will then see that we truly need a reform programme embracing the spirit of East Africans even as we streamline our own borders so that the story we hear from Kacheliba and that of Migingo will have to be diplomatically and expeditiously dealt with.

Finally, let us remember what the President said:

“We must bear in mind that Kenya is in competition with other countries in the region and globally.”

Therefore, our own future is in our own hands. Through negative politics of tearing each other apart, we will actually bring down all the gains this country has realised so far. I am sure that we are determined to do better than we have done.

Madam Temporary Deputy Speaker, once again, I want to congratulate His Excellency the President. I also want to congratulate this Parliament. Today was the beginning of a new dawn with the Prime Minister’s Question Time. I hope, next week, we will have the Leader of Government Business in place so that we can continue normally. The Leader of Government Business is entitled to fifteen minutes within which hon. Members can interact with him or her with regard to the business of the House for the following one or two weeks.

With those many remarks, I beg to move.

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Prof. Kamar): Hon. Members, that concludes the business on the Order Paper. Therefore, this House stands adjourned until tomorrow, 7th May, 2009, at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 6.30 p.m.